

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

**Is Syracuse's
Reyes poised
for Heisman?**

Back page

Running back Walter Reyes



**Former president
Clinton to undergo
bypass surgery**

Page 12



**Florida braces for
major blow from
Hurricane Frances**

Page 12

Volume 63, No. 140 © EPSS 2004

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2004

50¢

Scores die as Russian forces storm school

At least 200 dead, as 3-day terrorist siege ends Page 13

As RNC ends, Bush hits campaign trail hard

Pages 10-11



President says U.S.,
world 'safer' now;
Kerry strikes back



AP photos

Left: President Bush signs autographs and greets supporters at a campaign rally at Lackawanna County Stadium on Friday, in Moosic, Pa. Right: Bush waves to delegates at the end of the Republican National Convention in New York's Madison Square Garden on Thursday.

STARS & STRIPES

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Scene on Sunday

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| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Abby, Annie's Mailbox..... | 28 |
| American Roundup | 18-19 |
| Classified | 29-31 |
| Comics | 26-28 |
| Crossword | 27 |
| Faces 'n' Places | 23 |
| Horoscope | 26 |
| Letters | 24 |
| Opinion | 25 |
| Sports | 32-40 |
| TV listings | 22 |
| Weather | 17 |
| Your Money | 16 |

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

California gay marriages: A dozen gay and lesbian couples and the city of San Francisco have launched a legal attack on California's ban on same-sex marriage, arguing that the law enshrines bigotry, discriminates arbitrarily and violates a constitutional right to marry one's chosen partner.

"Exclusion from marriage ... marks lesbian and gay couples as second-class citizens. It dashes their hopes and dreams, and labels them and their children as inferior, based only on archaic stereotypes," lawyers for the couples say in written arguments in San Francisco Superior Court.

"The time for marriage equality has arrived," declared lawyers from City Attorney Dennis Herrera's office, which is suing on the city's behalf to overturn the marriage law.

Thursday's briefs opened what is likely to be the decisive round in the court battle over the law that defines marriage as a union strictly between a man and a woman. The law was passed by the California Legislature in 1977 and reaffirmed in 2000 by voters' approval of Proposition 22.

Snowmobiles in Yellowstone: Attorneys for snowmobile manufacturers, winter resorts and other tourism-related ventures have asked a federal judge in Cheyenne, Wyo., to permanently lift a snowmobile ban in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks so the businesses can have peace of mind about their survival.

U.S. District Judge Clarence Brimmer heard the request Thursday from the businesses, joined by the states of Montana and Wyoming.

Their lawyers said action by Brimmer would prevent another federal judge, in Washington, D.C., from reinstating the 2001 ban and creating economic uncertainty for the area.

The Clinton administration ban, to take effect last winter, was set aside in early 2003 by the National Park Service to settle a lawsuit filed by snowmobile makers. Under the agreement, new rules were drafted to allow a limited number of snowmobiles inside the parks.

Cross burning: Two teenagers accused of burning a cross in the front yard of a black family in Covington, Ky., pleaded guilty Thursday in federal court.

Matthew Scudder, 18, of Hebron, and James Foster, 19, of Independence, pleaded guilty to violating the family's civil rights, intimidating the family and to aiding and abetting a juvenile involved in the crime.

The two face up to 10 years in prison at sentencing, scheduled for Dec. 16.

On July 2, the northern Kentucky family found a 3-foot-tall charred cross in its front yard in Burlington. The next morning, the windows were broken out of a family car.

Ocean City murders: Recently unsealed documents provide gruesome details about the husband and wife who murdered two Virginia tourists in Ocean City, Md., in 2002. Erika Sifrit, who was convicted of first-degree murder, told the Secret Service that her husband, Benjamin, wanted to kill her parents, grandparents and a wealthy aunt, according to the documents, which were obtained by WBAL-TV.

She said her husband hoped they would inherit the money and discussed meeting in Argentina. Erika Sifrit portrayed her husband as mentally and physically abusive. She said after they were married for about a year, he wanted her to become pregnant. Documents show she carried his baby for nearly four months until he abruptly changed his mind and told her to "get an abortion or I'm going to take care of you."

In the recently released documents, Erika Sifrit recounted how her husband ordered



Detroit terror trial: Karim Koubriti, far left, and Abdel-Ilah Elmaroudi, far right, shown in federal court in Detroit in 2003, had terrorism charges against them thrown out Friday at the request of prosecutors, who said the prosecution was overzealous in trying to obtain a conviction in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. U.S. District Judge Gerald Rosen said the two, as well as Ahmed Hannan, second from right, must stand trial again on charges of document fraud. Farouk Ali-Haimoud, second from left, was acquitted on all charges.

the couple to get naked and asked them, "Do you want to die?" She also told investigators that she ordered her husband to shoot the couple, who had locked themselves in a bathroom.

A Montgomery County jury found Benjamin Sifrit guilty of second-degree murder in Crutchley's death but acquitted him of Ford's killing. Sifrit was sentenced to 38 years in prison in July 2003.

Michael Jackson case: Michael Jackson allegedly staved off a child molestation accusation in 1990 with a \$2 million payment to the son of an employee at his Neverland Ranch, according to a television report.

The television news magazine by "Dateline NBC," which reported the payment in a segment to be broadcast Friday night, did not disclose its source of information.

In the segment, retired Santa Barbara County Sheriff Jim Thomas, now an NBC news analyst, said his office investigated Jackson in 1993 in connection with one boy's claim and came upon the second accusation.

The first boy reportedly was paid \$15 million to \$20 million by Jackson to avoid charges the entertainer thought would damage his career even if proved untrue. Jackson has denied ever harming any child and is currently fighting charges he molested a boy in 2003.

Business

California air pollution: Exxon Mobil Corp. paid \$8.25 million to Southern California air quality regulators to settle dozens of violations at two facilities in the Los Angeles basin, which has the worst air quality in the nation.

The payment Wednesday was the third-largest in the history of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, officials said.

Most of the violations at the company's Torrance refinery and Terminal Island facility involved the improper storage of diesel, rocket fuel, gasoline, and other substances that can contribute to smog, district spokesman Sam Atwood said.

Carolin Keith, a spokeswoman for Irving, Texas-based Exxon Mobil, said the settlement was a way to "reach a common understanding on all regulations and requirements."

World

Terror warnings: The U.S. and Australian embassies in Jakarta, Indonesia, warned on Friday of possible terrorist attacks here and urged their citizens to exercise extreme caution in public places such as bars and hotels.

The U.S. mission said its employees had been advised to avoid large hotels. It warned other Americans in Indonesia to "observe vigilant personal security precautions, keep a low profile in public [and] vary their daily routines."

North Korean nukes: The United States, Japan and South Korea plan to discuss North Korea's nuclear weapons program this month in Tokyo, an official said Friday.

The allies will use the meeting, to be held in the first half of this month, to prepare for larger six-nation negotiations with North Korea, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mituji Yabumaki, his South Korean counterpart Lee Soo-hyuck and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly will hold two-day talks starting Sept. 9. Kyodo News agency cited ministry sources as saying.

Six-nation talks seeking to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions were initially scheduled to take place by the end of September. But the talks were thrown into doubt after the North said earlier this month it won't attend preparatory meetings.

North Korea train accident: A North Korean elementary school and an agricultural college in Seoul that were destroyed in a deadly train blast in April have reopened in newly constructed buildings, North Korea said.

Opening ceremonies were held Wednesday at the two schools in Ryongchon, where train wagons at a railway station exploded on April 22, killing 160 people and injuring an estimated 1,300, according to some estimates. The blast was believed to have been sparked by a train laden with oil and chemicals that hit power lines.

Stories and photos from wire services

al-Sadr aide denounces two kidnappings

Sheikh Jaber al-Khafaji delivers appeal for release during sermon on al-Sadr's behalf

BY KIM HOUSEGO
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An aide to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr denounced the kidnapping of two French journalists in Iraq and appealed for their release Friday in a sermon at a makeshift pulpit outside the revered mosque in Kufa as hundreds of worshippers held their first weekly prayers since last week's peace agreement.

Al-Sadr aides initially said the cleric planned to give the sermon at the Kufa mosque, which was closed last week after militants pulled out as part of the peace deal, but he abandoned the idea amid fears it could raise tensions. Iraqi security forces also sealed off roads and fired warning shots near the city, seeking to limit the number of worshippers and avoid unrest.

Sheikh Jaber al-Khafaji, delivering al-Sadr's sermon on his behalf, denounced the kidnapping of the two French journalists and urged their quick release.

France said it had received word that the captives, Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrun, were alive and one of their employers claimed the kidnappers had handed them over to a Sunni Muslim opposition group.

Hopes for their release were raised further Friday when Abdul-Salam Al-Qubeisi, an official with the Association of Muslim Scholars—a Sunni clerical organization with alleged ties to insurgents—said the Frenchmen's

lives were no longer threatened and it was only a matter of time before they would be freed.

Iraqi police and national guardsmen set up checkpoints, barring all cars from entering Kufa a week after al-Sadr and his al-Mahdi militia relinquished control of the city's revered shrine.

Ahmed al-Shabani, an al-Sadr aide, accused police forces of arresting dozens of the cleric's followers in Kufa and the nearby city of Najaf.

Nevertheless, about 2,000 followers of al-Sadr lined the street in front of the mosque, setting up a pulpit on the street.

Despite the peace deal in Najaf, many members of al-Sadr's militia are thought to have returned with their weapons to their Baghdad stronghold of Sadr City and the cleric's representatives and Iraq's interim government have been seeking common ground to end fighting there. Also Friday, firefighters battled a massive oil pipeline fire that raged in Riyadh about 40 miles southwest of the northern city of Kirkuk, a day after saboteurs detonated explosives on the line linking fields near Kirkuk with the oil refinery of Beiji, said Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohammed Amin of the Iraqi National Guard.

In other developments: Three Macedonian contractors disappeared in Iraq 10 days ago, a government spokesman in Skopje and their employers said Friday. Iraqi officials have been unable



Supporters of rebel Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr hold hands in solidarity as they offer prayer outside the Kufa mosque in Kufa, Iraq, Friday. Iraqi security forces fired warning shots and barred vehicle traffic leading to Kufa, fearing an outbreak of violence as hundreds of worshippers descended on the holy city for the first weekly prayers since al-Sadr relinquished control of its revered shrine under a peace deal.

to confirm whether they were kidnapped.

■ The U.S. military said two U.S. soldiers were wounded when they were hit by shrapnel when their convoy came under attack while on patrol near the city of Tikrit.

■ Gunmen abducted four policemen and an Iranian they were escorting to the border to be deported after raiding their hotel room in the southern city of Basra, a senior Basra police official said on condition of anonymity. The official declined to provide details on why he was being deported, but linked the Iranian's deportation to the unrest in Najaf.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, Sept. 2, 976 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 730 died as a result of hostile action and 246 died of non-hostile causes.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 838 U.S. troops have died—621 as a result of hostile action and 217 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers Thursday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

Samarra is latest no-go zone for U.S. troops

BY JIM KRANE
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Over the past few months, insurgents in Samarra have deposed the U.S.-picked leaders and put to death people suspected of collaborating with them, making the northern Iraqi city the latest no-go zone for Iraqi and American troops.

With preparations beginning for Iraq's nationwide general election, scheduled for January, U.S. Army Capt. Scott Synowicz, an intelligence officer at a 1st Infantry Division base on the outskirts of the city.

"It's true that we can't go into Samarra very often," said U.S. Army Capt. Scott Synowicz, an intelligence officer at a 1st Infantry Division base on the outskirts of the city.

"Whenever we go into Samarra we do get attacked, without a doubt."

But evidence suggests that the United States is taking a different approach from the devastating and politically damaging military assaults in Fallujah and Najaf, which had mixed results and may have attracted more Iraqis to the insurgents' cause.

The casualty-averse U.S. military — approaching 1,000 war dead — has little desire to expand the conflict.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Ayad Allawi and a group of 11 tribal sheiks and other prominent citizens began discussing the standoff.

The following day, the Muslim Clerics Association organized a

lecture in the city's great mosque that called upon insurgents to stop fighting inside the city.

Though they have battled in Samarra before, for now, U.S. troops are staying out of the city as negotiations continue.

"We've told them 'We're not going in until you guys have control of the situation,'" 1st Infantry spokesman Maj. Neal O'Brien said.

"There's a lot of behind-the-scenes maneuvering to resolve this thing peacefully."

Allawi said Tuesday that he has begun negotiating with leaders in Samarra, as well as Fallujah and Ramadi, and was optimistic about reaching a deal with moderate groups, while saying hard-core fighters will have to be met with force.

If the Allawi government can't negotiate an end to the standoffs, U.S. Army officers say they recognize they may have to fight again.

Samarra, an ancient city of 250,000 known for its 9th century spiral minaret, is controlled by about 500 fighters from three well-known Sunni Muslim rebel groups, according to city residents and the U.S. military.

The guerrillas have also kidnapped and executed residents suspected of collaborating with the Americans.

Video CDs purchased in Samarra show three local men confessing as American spies. The videos end with statements saying collaborators must be killed. The fate of the men is unknown.

Similar CDs have been released in Fallujah, some of which culminate in savage beheadings of the kidnapped collaborators.

Still, locals in Samarra say support for the fiery insurgency is dwindling, especially after Aug. 14, when U.S. armored units fought insurgents on the city's edges for seven hours as warplanes bombed rebel positions.

Around 50 Iraqi fighters and civilians were killed and 13 homes destroyed in 22 separate battles, mainly with small pockets of insurgents, the Army and local residents said.

In Fallujah and Najaf, U.S. attempts to quell rebel uprisings led to huge battles that killed thousands and were eventually quelled by cease-fire agreements.

MIDEAST NOTEBOOK

Lisa Burgess and Seth Robson

SpongeBob, friends help keep helos flying

Just as most foot soldiers carry small good-luck charms on their dog tags or in their pockets, aircrews have their own talismans.

The air evacuation crew of the 45th Medical Company Air Ambulance, out of Ainsbach, Germany, has a regular menagerie on board when they fly from their "Desert Dust Off" air base at Tallil, Iraq.

The pilot in charge, Capt. Gerald Bonner, has a SpongeBob Squarepants that his daughter Sara bought for him four years ago, when she was 12.

SpongeBob took his maiden flight with Bonner when the officer was assigned to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. Then came a tour in South Korea, and now SpongeBob is seeing action in Iraq, Bonner said.

Also sitting in the cockpit of the crew's Black Hawk is 1st Lt. Jerry Murphy's Goofy doll, which his father, Jerry Murphy Sr., gave him with strict instructions to log flight hours and missions before sending Goofy home.

And finally, poking his head out from medic Sgt. Reginald Jones' personal crew bag, is a small stuffed tiger.

The adorable, if dusty, toys seem surprising companions for battle-hardened air team. But whenever that Black Hawk goes wheels-up, SpongeBob, Goofy, and Tiger are present and ready for duty.

Hazards of smoking

Smoking can be dangerous, as one hapless soldier found out recently at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

A gift from the Yankees



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

Troops at Forward Operating Base O'Ryan, near Balad, Iraq, sport New York Yankees colors, thanks to a gift from the team. The base is home to the headquarters company of the New York National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment. The Yankees sent boxes of fan magazines and 800 baseball caps, enough for the 2-108 Infantry to share with FOB O'Ryan troops from the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment and the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment — both based in Schweinfurt, Germany — and from the 141st Engineer Battalion of the North Dakota Army National Guard.

The soldier was standing next to a portable toilet enjoying a cigarette when he was rudely interrupted by a flying soccer ball.

He had not noticed that the portable toilet formed part of a goal being used by a group of soldiers playing soccer.

One of the players executed a perfectly timed strike between the portable toilet and a box of water bottles serving as the other goalpost.

The ball sailed through the middle of the goal and struck the smoker square in the torso, sending the glowing ember he had been drawing on spiraling away into the night.

A little closer to home

Soldiers in the 299th Forward Support Battalion at Camp Anaconda, Iraq, now can look forward to breakfast, lunch and dinner.

In October, the soldiers will no longer need to take the mile-long walk to eat at a chow hall. That's when Dining Facility Five will open up, much to the relief of troops who before could have walked up to six miles a day and not from the chow hall.

According to a 1st Infantry Division news release, the DFAC is the fifth on the base.

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LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

A stuffed tiger belonging to Sgt. Reginald Jones rides in the back of a helicopter as Jones' unit heads out on missions.

Marine convicted of abuse, but cleared in Iraq detainee death

BY SETH HETTENA

The Associated Press

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.

Wearing a khaki-and-green uniform adorned with service ribbons, a Marine reservist stood without reaction as a military jury convicted him of dereliction of duty and abuse of prisoners at a makeshift detention camp in Iraq.

Marine Sgt. Gary Pittman was cleared of two other charges Thursday, including abusing a 52-year-old Iraqi man who died in custody.

He faces a maximum sentence of nine months in prison and a dishonorable discharge. Sentencing deliberations were scheduled to begin Friday.

Pittman's wife cried as the nine-man jury's verdict was read following just four hours of deliberation. Pittman embraced his wife and attorney before leaving the courtroom accompanied by his brother, an Army major. He didn't stop to speak with reporters.

The 40-year-old reservist, who is a federal prison guard in New York in his civilian life, was activated last year and sent to Camp Whitehouse in southern Iraq.

Wednesday to say he never assaulted a prisoner, was the only witness to testify that he never saw any abuses at the makeshift lookout that has since been closed.

Guardsman convicted of attempting to provide information to al-Qaida

BY MELANTHIA MITCHELL

The Associated Press

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — A Federal Guardsman was convicted of what military officials said amounts to attempted treason for trying to aid al-Qaida, and a jury recommended he be sentenced to life in prison.

The verdict in Spc. Ryan G. Anderson's court martial, which began Monday, was announced late Thursday afternoon. The sentence recommendation came early Friday.

Anderson, a tank crewman whose 81st Armor Brigade unit is now in Iraq, was accused of trying to give terrorists information about U.S. troops' strength and tactics. The terrorists he thought he was meeting with were actually undercover federal agents, prosecutors said.

The 27-year-old Muslim convert, who did not testify during the guilt phase of his trial, took the stand Thursday evening in the penalty phase and wept, apologizing to his country and his family.

"I would rather give my life" than do anything to discredit the military, he told the jury of nine com-

missioned officers from Fort Lewis. He said he felt "really lousy" about his actions.

His mother, Linda Tucker, struggled to breathe and talk through her tears. Extending her arms in a plea to jurors, she said, "Honest to goodness, if you could just look under the surface of Ryan, you'd see that he's not a bad person."

His father, Bruce Anderson, also testified on his behalf in the penalty proceeding as defense lawyers projected photos of Ryan Anderson as a child and a teen.

The jury deliberated about 4½ hours Thursday before finding Anderson guilty. A two-thirds majority was needed to convict, but the vote was not announced.

Jurors deliberated another 3½ hours before recommending early Friday that Anderson be sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole and a dishonorable discharge. The post commander is expected to decide on a sentence in four to six months.

Life in prison would be the maximum penalty. Whatever his sentence, he will receive credit for his 203 days in jail at this Army post following his Feb. 12 arrest.

Hohenfels' training unit to deploy to Afghanistan

Last deployment was in 1943

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

About 100 soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment's Company A from Hohenfels, Germany, will head to Afghanistan next week to provide security and support for that country's upcoming presidential election.

It's the first time the unit has deployed since 1943, when 1-4 soldiers helped drive Japanese forces from the Aleutian Islands.

The unit's infantrymen rarely deploy because of their vital role in training Army units in Europe, but they are ready to go, said Capt. Jacob Larkovich, commander of the 1-4's Company A.

Since 1990, the unit has been the opposing force at the Combat Maneuver Training Center, which lately has provided mission rehearsal training for U.S. Army units deploying to Afghanistan and Iraq.

"I'm confident that the soldiers are ready to do anything," Larkovich said in a telephone interview. "Although they are designated OPFOR [opposing force] for units training here, they get the same training as other infantrymen."

While the battalion's soldiers and families don't expect to deploy, they know the possibility is there.

"The expectation is for us to be here training the force," said Staff Sgt. Steven Cornett, a squad leader in 2nd Platoon. "But we're a full-up infantry unit. If we are called, we go."

The deployment may not have as much of an effect on the soldiers' families. The 1-4's soldiers typically live in the training center's "box" when other units come to train. Often, there are back-to-back training rotations, meaning 1-4 soldiers might see their families for only a couple of days over a few months, Larkovich said.

"The families are taking it real well ... and the Family Readiness Group has been very active," he said. "These families are used to the soldiers being in the field and being gone a lot."

The soldiers, such as Pfc. Mark Dreihobl, also seem to be taking it well.

"I'm excited about going; I'll get to see more of the world," said Dreihobl, a medic who will be going on his first deployment. "That's one of the reasons I requested being stationed overseas, to see the world."

Dreihobl said he trained with the soldiers who are deploying, but also went through separate medical training with the element's other two medics who are deploying.

The deployment training turned the tables on these soldiers who act as the "enemy" for units rotating through the center.

"The training was pretty challenging, but for us it was just seeing it from the other side," Cornett said. "We've all handled the OPFOR mission and understand that role. This was just reversing it."

"We were able to call up our knowledge of lessons learned from units rotating through, and that helped," Cornett said.

And, although the training battalion is losing one of its components on the deployment, three other companies remain to train units at the CMTC, including the Southern European Task Force, which rotates through from Monday through Oct. 13.

"Only one company is leaving, so CMTC will continue to provide its world-class OPFOR," said Maj. Mike Durham, 7th Army Training Command spokesman. "The training for SETAF and other units will not be diminished at all."

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La. base still hunting elusive tiger



LEESVILLE DAILY LEADER/AP

Maj. Zane Jones, right, deputy provost marshal at Fort Polk, La., and Chief Deputy Calvin Turner of the Vernon Parish Sheriff's Office, explain the target area where members of the Army and Exotic Animal Rescue Team would be focusing their search for a Bengal tiger which was seen on the base Monday evening. The Army doesn't know where the animal came from. The tiger is believed to be about one year old and 100 pounds. The Army has received about 15 reports of sightings, one near a golf course and another near a gas station.

Katterbach soldier gets five years for drug possession, fleeing police

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — A Katterbach-based soldier who led German police on a high-speed chase after a botched drug sting in March was sentenced Thursday to five years in prison.

After hearing evidence for three days, a court-martial panel deliberated five hours before convicting Sgt. Robert B. Clayton, 25, of the 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, of eight offenses. The charges included possession and use of marijuana, destroying evidence, fleeing civil authorities, assault on a law enforcement officer, and operating a passenger car wantonly or recklessly, said Maj. Shane Bartee, co-prosecutor in the case.

The jury acquitted Clayton on one charge of conspiracy to distribute marijuana. Judge (Lt. Col.) Robin Hall also dismissed several other charges — either drug-related or connected to Clayton's alleged forgery of documents in a promotion packet — after defense attorneys argued the charges hadn't been proven, Bartee said.

Clayton's troubles began Aug. 26, 2003, when a soldier who shared a barracks bathroom with him saw what looked like marijuana in the room and called military police. Clayton apparently flushed the drugs down the toi-

let, Bartee said, but drug-sniffing dogs found evidence of the drug in his room and outside his window. He later failed a urinalysis test.

Already charged with those offenses, he got mixed up in another drug-related incident in March, Bartee said. Another soldier, facing court-martial on his own drug charges, agreed with

sped off. He hit the policeman, who fired at the car's tire but missed.

According to testimony from German police, Clayton led them on a high-speed chase through Ansbach's residential neighborhoods that eventually involved as many as 10 police cruisers.

The police later found bags of marijuana, psilocybin mushrooms and the party drug Ecstasy along the route, apparently thrown out the window by the fleeing couple.

Eventually, police cornered the car and nabbed McLemore, but Clayton fled, running through yards and leaping over fences, said his civilian attorney, David Court. He hid briefly in drainage ditch before being caught and arrested.

Court argued Clayton had innocently given a ride to his friend McLemore not knowing she had drugs in the car and drove off only because he feared a car-jacking.

After convicting Clayton of most of the remaining charges, the panel deliberated 2½ hours Thursday morning before handing down his prison sentence, said Capt. Catherine Cunningham, the lead prosecutor.

Clayton also was stripped of the lowest enlisted rank, reduced to all pay during his prison term, and dishonorably discharged from the Army.

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Sgt. Clayton led police on a high-speed chase through Ansbach. ... When police cornered the car, he fled on foot, running through yards and leaping over fences.

German police in Ansbach to help on a drug sting with his alleged supplier, a German woman named Monica McLemore.

The soldier agreed to meet McLemore in a parking lot, and she arrived in a car driven by Clayton. When a plain-clothes German policeman approached the car with his gun drawn to arrest her, Bartee said, Clayton

Joy and pain at return of Vietnam dog tags

Woman has made it her mission to find old tags and track down owners

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

A simple message left on Ken Archambault's answering machine one Saturday night a few years ago brought 34 years of suppressed war memories crashing back.

Someone was looking for the Ken Archambault who'd fought in Vietnam.

The caller found the right guy. She had something of his.

More curious than stunned, Archambault called her back.

"I didn't know if it was a prank call or what, but figured I'd give her a call and see what happens. She said she had my dog tags. She read off my ID number. It was right. W3156095. That was me."

"I didn't remember losing them."

He doesn't know if the tags really are those he wore during the war or if they're one of the countless fakes circulating in Vietnam, said Archambault, 57, of Brewster, Mass.

Nor does he care, he said. "They've got my name on it, so yeah, I guess I wanted them," he said.

The caller's voice on his machine was that of Stacey Hansen, who four years ago was backpacking through Vietnam when she ran across some American G.I. dog tags. She had seen a few for sale at markets and little shops and asked if there were more.

She was brought to a what she thinks was a Vietnamese military hospital, where inside a glass case, she was shown hundreds. She bought all 566 of them, for about \$2 apiece.

"Why did I do this? I think Vietnam vets got a really bad deal in the way they were treated when coming home," said the 35-year-old firefighter and paramedic in San Jose, Calif.

"Everyone knows it was a political war and politics are always going to surround war. But to me,



Photo courtesy of Ken Archambault

Vietnam veteran Ken Archambault holds a set of dog tags with his name and his identification number stamped on them that 35-year-old Stacey Hansen said she found while backpacking in Vietnam four years ago. A few years ago, Hansen called Archambault, telling him she'd found his tags. "I didn't remember losing them," he said. Real or not, Archambault said he wanted to have them.

it's so sad that there was no support for them when they came home," Hansen said.

"I'm not necessarily in favor of our guys being in Iraq, but I certainly wouldn't spit on them and call them names when they got to the airport. [Vietnam vets] were made to feel shameful for going to war over there, and here I am thinking 'This doesn't compute. They're going over there to do what our country has asked them to do.'"

She returns to Vietnam next week in search of more tags. Then she will catalog what she finds, post the names on her Internet site, www.vietnamdogtags.com, and seek out owners or their families.

It's an endeavor that consumes

an average of three or four hours a day as she and her boyfriend work to track down vets and family members who might want to see the return of the tags.

But more harm than good could be coming for efforts like Hansen's, said Larry Greer, spokesman of the Pentagon's POW/Missing Personnel Office.

"We get reports from families, and we meet with them frequently that they've been contacted by well-meaning people seeking to return dog tags of loved ones. For some, for most, it brings back hurtful memories," Greer said. "However, we have also had accounts of family members of servicemen, those missing in action or killed in action, and for some of those fami-

ly members they've expressed appreciation."

It was a surreal moment when Amanda Zucroff-Moore learned that her brother's dog tags were being returned to the family, she said.

"It was painful and wonderful, and while remembering him all over again is a joy, you're also remembering he's lost, and that is a stab to the heart again," said the 46-year-old, who lives in Alice, Texas.

Her memories of Lance Cip, Steven Zucroff are "little guy memories" — she was 11 when her 21-year-old brother was killed in action in 1968 in Vietnam. "I remember he was tall, big, loving. I felt safe with him."

For years, there has been a cottage industry of Vietnamese manufacturers of G.I. dog tags, Greer said.

"They're usually sold to American tourists with the pitch that 'We found these, and perhaps you'd want to find their owners or their families back in the U.S.," he said. "These things are easy to duplicate, because when American forces pulled out in the 1970s, they often tossed dog tag stamping machines on the trash dumps. The blank metal was also tossed, or the enterprising Vietnamese craftsman could easily use metal of his own."

Hansen maintains that the nearly 1,000 tags she has are authentic. Her collection has grown because a man read about her project in the media and gave her some 300 he had, and she picks some up here and there in her travels. None are duplicates, she said, and no one has disputed the authenticity of the 310 she has returned.

"I asked DOD for help and their first response was, 'They're all fake, stop doing this,'" Hansen said. "Then they turned around and in the same conversation asked me to box them up and send them and they would get all the tags to the family. I told them it has taken 30 years. If they haven't done it by now, they're not going to do it."

Of the 27 million men and women in the U.S. military who served in the designated war zone, 1,854 remain missing, Greer said. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington lists the names of 58,178 Veterans who died or who remain missing.

"To date, in the nearly 30 years we've been investigating these reports, no one dog tag brought back by any tourist has been useful in determining the fate of a missing American," Greer said. "Most of those tags are not real. What we do know is real the pain this little exchange generates among the families."

Email Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

Auditions to be held in Rota for roles in 'Deuce Bigalow' sequel

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — Think you ought to be in pictures? Or, perhaps, your son? Well, here's your chance.

Producers for the upcoming film "Deuce Bigalow 2: European Gigolo" are looking for a pair of 8-year-old boys to play a small part in the sequel, and they will be in Rota looking for budding stars. The movie also is looking for extras to play the part of a surfer dude and a TV reporter.

Casting Marbella, an agency based in southern Spain, will hold a casting call at Hotel Playa de la Luz on Monday between 1 and 6 p.m., agency owner Marianne Nilsson said. The hotel is about two miles from the naval station's main gate.

"They're looking for a kid who can really do the part," Nilsson said. "They will open and close the film."

The beginning and end of the movie is set in Malibu, Calif., but will be shot on the shores of southern Spain. Most of the film is in Amsterdam, where comedian and "Saturday Night Live" alum Rob Schneider is filming this month.

Casting directors are looking for two boys, one white and one black, around 8 years old who have an American accent, Nilsson said. The role of the TV reporter should have that "CNN kind of look," she added.

The movie begins with the two boys coming up to Deuce Bigalow, played by Schneider, on the beach. They ask him about a new shark repellent device that Bigalow has developed since retiring

from his job as a "man-whore." In the script, Bigalow tells the boys he is now a "fish enthusiast."

In the sequel to 1999 flick, "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo," Schneider's character travels to Amsterdam, where the former fish tank cleaner finds himself forced into the male prostitute business.

The second movie, scheduled to be released next year, is expected to have the same crude jokes that made the first movie a hit. The first Deuce was rated "R."

Filming in southern Spain is set to begin later this month.

While the thrill of being in a movie might be worth landing the part, extras also will make between 500 and 1,000 euros for about two days' work, Nilsson said.

Email Scott Schonauer at: schonauer@mail.stripes.osd.mil



Touchstone Pictures

Rob Schneider stars in 1999's "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo." Producers filming "Deuce Bigalow 2: European Gigolo" will be in Rota, Spain, on Monday searching for extras for the sequel. They are looking for two boys around 8 years old, and extras to play a surfer and a TV reporter.

Reserve pay problems eased, official says

Systemic pay problems that added to the hassle of mobilization for tens of thousands of Army Reserve and National Guard members since 9/11 have largely been corrected and should not hit the next rotation of reserve forces into Iraq and Afghanistan, says a senior defense pay official.

Patrick T. Shine, director of military and civilian pay services for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Indianapolis, says the Army and DFAS has worked to end staffing shortages and processing errors that congressional auditors found to be widespread and harmful to morale.

The Government Accountability Office, in separate reports in November and July, found that more than 90 percent of soldiers in activated Army Guard and Reserve units they studied had experienced significant pay problems, mostly overpayments but also underpayments and delays.

GAO said the errors "often had a profound adverse impact on individual soldiers and their families" and were not easy to correct, hanging over some reservists for more than a year.

Many soldiers said they had spent a considerable amount of their time while deployed, in remote and hostile environments, seeking help to understand their pay and trying to correct errors.

Very few received combat-zone tax exemptions on time.

Shine, in a phone interview, said GAO correctly categorized three types of pay problems, involving staffing, processes and an obsolete pay system. The first two have been addressed, he said. The third, replacing what Shine described as "a 1969-vintage COBAL software program" will take longer, until next March, to install even a temporary fix.

But Shine said real improvements in finance administration and pay processes — within units, at mobilization and demobilization sites, and at DFAS — combined with other safeguards to ensure accuracy, should make the delay in overall pay system reform invisible to deploying forces.

He wants troops to know, he said, "that at the home station, at the mobilization site and when they're in-country, they are going to find trained finance people all along the way," Shine said.

GAO said reserve pay processes and controls for activated units were "inherently flawed." It criticized a lack of accountability over soldiers and their pay at almost every turn during mobilization. Sloppy procedures in documenting whether soldiers were still overseas resulted in numerous overpayments, particularly of hardship duty pay, GAO said.

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

The current Defense Joint Military Pay System (DJMS) actually is two systems, one for active-duty members and one for reserves. The reserve system, Shine said, "was designed just to pay people for weekend drills once a month and two weeks active-duty-for-training once a year." It can be used to pay activated forces, Shine said, but "it requires more manual intervention" which raises the risk of errors.

Errors blossomed during early troop rotations into Afghanistan and Iraq in part because few reserve units arrived with finance teams trained to work their cumbersome pay system. Pay problems weren't prevalent for reserve forces sent to Bosnia and Kosovo because the Army used only two mobilization sites, both appropriately staffed. For Iraq, it needed 26 sites and didn't have enough reserve pay experts to support them all.

The long-term solution is the Defense Integrated Military Human Resource System, which

will combine into a single network all military pay and personnel systems, active and reserve. With that system still years away, DFAS and the services came up with an interim replacement for DJMS, enough to move to a combined active and reserve pay system. Called the Forward Compatible Payroll System, it will be implemented in phases, starting with Army Reserve components next spring.

The third force rotation for Iraq will occur this fall, too soon to benefit from a new payroll system. But Shine said mobilized units should see few pay problems because of more and better trained finance teams and greater care in verifying pay accuracy at every stage of mobilization.

DFAS also recently automated hazardous duty pay entries for activated personnel. This change alone will lower by 85 percent the number of manual pay transactions needed, saving the Army "hundreds of thousands inputs," Shine said.

Finally, rigid processes are in place to track Reserve and Guard members as they move in and out of combat zones, which trigger sharp changes in pay, a source of many earlier pay errors. DFAS is set to verify such pay changes, and will follow up with automated checks of payroll data against travel manifests collected by deployed theater finance offices.

Since last November, when GAO issued its first report on widespread pay problems in the Army National Guard, DFAS worked with the Navy, Air Force and Marines to verify the accuracy of pay for activated personnel. Some problems were uncovered but not near the scale of Army difficulties.

Shine advises all servicemembers to review leave and earnings statements routinely. If they find an irregularity, they should seek clarification through the chain of command.

If a pay problem persists, Army Reserve and National Guard members have a new option, mandated by Congress in the wake of the GAO reports. They or family members with powers of attorney can contact a pay ombudsman. The hot line for Army National Guard units is (877) 276-4729. Army reservists with persistent pay problems can call (608) 388-6466 or DSN 280-6466.

"I feel confident," said Shine, "that soldiers in OIF-3 (Operation Iraqi Freedom Three) will deploy under a completely different set of financial support circumstances than their predecessors did in OIF-1 and 2."

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111, e-mail milupdate@aol.com or visit www.militaryupdate.com

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SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

A panoramic view of David Glasgow Farragut Elementary School at Naval Station Rota, Spain. The base in southern Spain will open its new, \$16.5 million elementary school Tuesday.

State-of-the-art school set to open in Rota

Technology abounds as students ready to enter \$16.5M Farragut Elementary

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — The "media center" — what older people might call a library — has more than two-dozen computers to complement the hundreds of neatly stacked books.

Carpeted classrooms are wired for Internet and have wall-mounted satellite TVs. And rubberized playgrounds — when they are finished — will make recess both fun and safe.

No, this is not your mother's elementary school.

While students across Europe start this school year with new teachers and maybe some new books, elementary students in Rota are beginning classes in a new, \$16.5 million school. The

campus is likely to wow many parents who grew up on chalk blackboards and ditto paper.

"It's beautiful," Principal Gary Edsall said, sitting in a considerably larger office than his old one. "The kids are really excited. The community is really excited."

The teachers are thrilled, too. Getting ready for the upcoming school year in addition to moving into a new building has meant some long hours for teachers and administrators. But teachers are eager for the first school bell to ring at the improved David Glasgow Farragut Elementary School.

"It's like double-work this year," first-grade teacher Connie Thompson said. "But it's really motivating. We're waking up early just anxious to get here."

Teacher Beth Peris said the

rooms are state-of-the-art and better than the old school in just about every aspect.

"If you look at what we had and what we have now, you can't compare," Peris said.

The old school was a network of buildings that served as wings for kindergarten through sixth grade. There were no hallways, only canopied sidewalks connecting the buildings to the gym and the cafeteria. The 45-year-old school had wiring and plumbing problems and several classrooms caught on fire two years ago. Plus, first-graders had to share the bathrooms with the high school students.

The new two-story school, which will greet about 500 students this year, puts the old school to shame.

SEE ROTA ON PAGE 9



Connie Thompson, a first-grade teacher, prepares a bulletin board for the first day of school at Naval Station Rota, Spain.

Ribbon officially cut on new Lakenheath Middle

BY RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

RAF FELTWELL, England — A school requires more than mortar and brick, attractive classrooms and top-notch technology to complete its mission, speakers

said Friday as Lakenheath Middle School's new building was opened for the 2004-05 school year.

The facility will welcome 707 students next week when the mission begins to prove that the \$26 million needed to build the school was not spent in vain.

"Now the hard work begins," said Linda Curtis, superintendent of the Isles District of Department of Defense Dependent

Schools in Europe.

She and several other dignitaries spoke to a packed gymnasium of students, teachers and parents who cheered when the ribbon was cut by Janet Klinkle, the school principal; Luke Jermy, the school's student council president; and Joseph Tafaya, director of the DOD Education Activity.

The old facility actually was several buildings, and students had to sometimes brave rain, wind or snow to move from one class to another.

"This is far more than a building. This is a school," said

Klinkle.

But she and others cautioned that a building is not enough. It requires the effort of teachers, staff, students and parents to turn the



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Shannon Rushford, left, and Cassie Cook, members of Girl Scout Troop 33, present the flag Friday at a ceremony opening the new Lakenheath Middle School.

building into a real school.

"We've got the building," Klinkle said. "Now together we will build its educational legacy."

SEE LAKENHEATH ON PAGE 9

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DOD plan focuses spending on troops, intel

BY THOMAS E. RICKS

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Top Pentagon officials are considering a new, long-term strategy that shifts spending and resources away from large-scale warfare to build more agile, specialized forces for fighting guerrilla wars, confronting terrorism and handling less conventional threats, officials said Thursday.

The proposal, presented two weeks ago to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and others, could carry major implications for defense spending, eventually moving some funds away from ships, tanks and planes and toward troops, elite Special Operations forces and intelligence gathering. The shift has been building for some time, but the plan circulating at the Pentagon would accelerate the changes, analysts said.

The plan's working assumption is that the United States faces almost no serious conventional threats from traditional, state-based militaries. Thus, it says, the United States should accept more risk in

that area to pay more attention to other threats: terrorism, the type of low-tech guerrilla fighting confronting troops in Iraq, and the possibility of dramatic technological advances by adversaries.

Some of those priorities depend more heavily on troop strength than high-tech weaponry and could increase the pressure on the Pentagon to build the size of the Army and the Marine Corps.

"The lesson learned in [Operation] Iraqi Freedom is that in some areas, we have capabilities overmatch," said Christopher "Ryan" Henry, the principal undersecretary of defense for policy, who wrote and presented the briefing to Rumsfeld on Aug. 19. "We can't see many competitors that are coming at us in the traditional domain."

"In the business world, this is the equivalent of coming up with a new product in a new market," Henry added.

A copy of the slide presentation given to Rumsfeld was obtained by The Washington Post, after which officials agreed to discuss portions of it in interviews.

The documents said Pentagon planning should emphasize preparing for "catastrophic" challenges such as use of weapons of mass destruction "against high-profile targets by terrorists or rogue states." It also cited the need to prepare for "irregular challenges" from other countries or groups, including terrorism, insurgency and civil war.

One example of the new thinking urged in the plan was what it called the "stretch goal" of being able to invade a country, keep 200,000 troops there for five years, and be able to organize, train and equip a local military force of 100,000 troops in just six months.

One senior officer who attended the mid-August briefing said it was received warmly by top Pentagon officials. "It generated intriguing discussion around the table and a positive endorsement of the concepts in the end," he said.

The discussion came as the Pentagon is gearing up for the major review of overall strategy that Congress requires every four years.

By itself, the document's assessment of

threats confronting the military is not controversial. The recent report of the Sept. 11 commission stated the issue clearly: "National security used to be considered by studying foreign frontiers, weighing opposing groups of states, and measuring industrial might. To be dangerous, an enemy had to muster large armies."

Outside experts on military change and strategy were skeptical about whether Rumsfeld would be able to secure sweeping change in philosophy.

"It's a step in the right direction," said Andrew Krepinovich, executive director of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a defense-oriented think tank. But, he said, the uniformed leadership at the Pentagon sometimes simply stalls on embracing radical change until the civilian defense secretary promotes it.

"Rumsfeld has been trying for three years now to refocus the services on the new challenges confronting us," Krepinovich said.

So far, these efforts have met with little success. How much more likely is Rumsfeld to succeed this time around when the military has a major war on its hands?"



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

From left, Diane Ohman, superintendent of Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Europe; Janet Klinke, principal of Lakenheath Middle School; and Joseph Tafaya, director of the Department of Defense Education Activity, check out the new Lakenheath Middle School.

Lakenheath: New \$26M middle school opens

LAKENHEATH, FROM PAGE 8

Prior to the ceremony, Klinke led a tour of the building for distinguished visitors, pointing out the highlights as she went up and down the halls.

Every classroom has an interactive white board, which acts as a giant computer screen. And the energy-efficient lighting dims automatically on bright days and increases intensity on dark days.

The hallways are wide and the storage space is a major expansion from the old facility.

From the computer lab to the music room, Klinke was enthusiastic in her description.

"We worked with the specialist in each area to design that area," she told her visitors.

Tafaya, who said he has visited all 221 of the DOD's schools, told the audience that the quality of a student's education should not be dependent on where the sponsor is stationed.

"Our military kids deserve the best we can give them," he said. Diane Ohman, superintendent of DODDS-Europe, told the students how lucky they are to attend a new school.

"You need to treat it with respect," she said.

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.strips.osd.mil

Rota: Staff ready to get started

ROTA, FROM PAGE 8

Rays of sunlight peaking through a line of windows at the top of the tall ceilings illuminate the wide hallways. All 22 classrooms have at least four Internet hook-ups, and each has a TV, a sink and a wall full of extra storage space. Outside the classrooms, there is a locker for each student.

The gym has a regulation-sized basketball court and offices for the physical education instructors. "And it's only for the elementary," Edsall said, beaming.

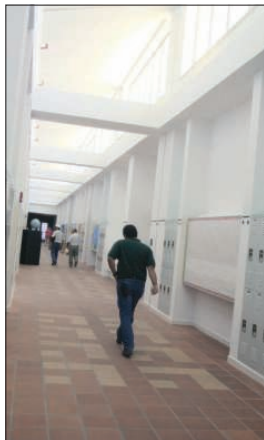
Although the school is ready for students, construction workers are putting the finishing touches on the project.

Teachers are working 12- to 13-hour days every day to make sure they're ready for classes.

"They're tired," Edsall said. "But they will have it ready."

Rear Adm. Stanley Bozin, commander of Navy Region Europe, will join students, teachers, parents and Spanish Navy guests to celebrate the first day of school and the opening of the new campus Tuesday.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauer@mail.strips.osd.mil



PHOTOS BY SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

Above: Building contractors walk through a hallway at the new David Glasgow Farragut Elementary School at Naval Station Rota, Spain. The Navy base in southern Spain will open its new, \$16.5 million elementary school Tuesday.

Left: A Spanish worker cleans the new rubberized playground, one of many features of the new school that students will be looking forward to.

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IN THE STATES

Monkees trade post-convention barbs

Bush tells GOP faithful U.S., world 'safer' now

By TOM RAUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Bush pledged "a safer world and a more hopeful America" as he accepted his party's nomination for a second term and plunged into the final two months of his re-election campaign. He promptly drew fire Friday from Democratic challenger John Kerry, who said Bush is "unfit to lead this country."

In the city that transformed his presidency three Septembers ago, Bush declared to a raucous Republican convention crowd: "We have fought the terrorists across the earth — not for pride, not for power, but because the lives of our citizens are at stake. ... We have led, many have joined, and America and the world are safer."

Bush wasted no time in getting back on the campaign trail, leaving New York soon after his hourlong speech Thursday night for Pennsylvania. He spoke at a Friday morning rally in Moosic, stops later in the day in Wisconsin and Iowa also were scheduled.

With the economy figuring heavily in the campaign, new unemployment figures out Friday showed the nation's jobless rate dipping slightly to 5.4 percent as the economy added 144,000 jobs in August, slightly less than economists were forecasting but still the biggest gain since May.

"Overall, we've added about 1.7 million jobs since August 2003. The unemployment rate is down to 5.4 percent," Bush said. "That's nearly a full point below the rate last summer and below the average of the 1970s and 1980s and 1990s."

At the Republican convention, Bush stood a few miles from where two hijacked planes destroyed the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, to make a nationally broadcast appeal to Americans for another term. "In the last four years, you and I have come to know each other. Even when we don't agree, at least you know what I believe and where I stand," he said.

He boasted of first-term accomplishments, outlined plans for a second-term agenda and criticized Kerry on both domestic and foreign policy counts.

"Voters will make a choice based on the records we have built, the convictions we hold and the vi-

sion that guides us forward," Bush said, standing alone on an elevated theater-in-the-round platform in Madison Square Garden.

Bush also unapologetically defended his decision to invade Afghanistan and Iraq. "Because we acted to defend our country, the murderous regimes of Saddam Hussein and the Taliban are history, more than 50 million people have been liberated, and democracy is coming to the broader Middle East," the president said.

Polls show the nation deeply divided on the wisdom of going to war with Iraq, where violence continues despite a turnover of control in June to an Iraqi interim government and as the U.S. death toll there is fast approaching 1,000.

Kerry: 1st term is 'record of failure'

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
The Associated Press

NEWARK, Ohio — Democrat John Kerry cited new government figures Friday showing fewer jobs created than expected as another example of what he called President Bush's "record of failure."

"I don't think this is something to celebrate. I think it's something to get to work on," Kerry said to a small group gathered at in Mark and Debbie Bickle's front yard.

Ohio's unemployment rate has been running higher than the national average since early this year. Both campaigns have repeatedly visited the state in a fierce fight for its 20 electoral votes.

"The president wants you to re-elect him. For what?" Kerry said. "Losing jobs? Building the biggest deficit in American history? Getting us into a war that we spent \$200 billion on when he told you it would cost you \$1 billion?"

Kerry spoke at a midnight rally in Springfield as Bush closed the GOP convention in New York with his acceptance speech. Kerry said the president was "unfit to lead this nation" because of the war in Iraq and his record on jobs, health care and energy prices.

He also lashed out at Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney for

real thing. He is the real thing."

"Terrorists have been killing Americans for more than two decades," said Franks. "I am proud that this president has chosen to make a stand."

Franks, who grew up in Midland, Texas, has raised his public profile as he promotes his just-published memoirs, "American Soldier."

More than a dozen other retired generals and admirals also appeared, among them retired Gen. P.X. Kelley, former U.S. Marine Corps commandant.

From The Associated Press



President Bush and first lady Laura Bush greet a crowd Friday in Moosic, Pa. Bush lost Pennsylvania in 2000, so it was his first stop after accepting the Republican Party's nomination Thursday night in New York.



Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry sought to counter GOP attacks Friday in Springfield, Ohio.

not serving in Vietnam during the war and for comments made during the convention about Kerry's fitness to be president.

"I will not have my commitment to defend this country questioned by those who refused to serve when they could have and who misled America into Iraq," Kerry told thousands at the rally.

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Franks: Bush is 'the real thing'

NEW YORK — In a rousing warning for President Bush, retired Gen. Tommy Franks on Thursday called his commander in chief "the real thing," a man who has the "courage and consistency" needed to lead America in the fight against terrorism.

"Citizens and friends, I've been with this president in tough, uncertain times," Franks, former commander of forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, said at the Republican National Convention. "George W. Bush is the

Bush tries to refocus campaign

BY RON FOURNIER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — An unpopular war and 1.1 million lost jobs is enough to kill a presidency, so President Bush tried Thursday night to make the election about something else: himself and his leadership style.

"Even when we don't agree," he told an anxious and divided nation, "you know what I believe and where I stand."

He sought to make a virtue of his differences with half or more of the electorate, and cast Democratic rival John Kerry as an indecisive liberal unfit for wartime leadership.

"One thing I have learned about the presidency is that whatever shortcomings you have, people are going to notice them," the president said, "and whatever strengths you have, you're going to need them."

Reluctant to admit mistakes, Bush cupped to a few — arrogant, too blunt and grammatically challenged — and explained them away with laugh lines. But he

ANALYSIS

didn't give an inch on the matters that matter most: a war in Iraq that has cost the lives of nearly 1,000 U.S. troops, and a job-loss record that rivals Herbert Hoover.

These two issues are fueling a sense of unease among voters, with nearly 60 percent saying the nation is headed in the wrong direction. Bush's big challenge was making Americans feel better about the course of their nation and the politics of their president, a task he tackled with a star-spangled political convention near Ground Zero, site of the nation's deadliest attack and a symbol of his wartime leadership.

Kerry said voters won't buy it.

"If you believe this country is heading in the right direction, you should support George Bush," the Democrat said from Ohio, the most bitterly fought state battleground. "But if you believe America needs to move in a new direction, join with us."

Stick with me, Bush said. By a 3-to-1 margin, people think the

war in Iraq increased rather than decreased the threat of terrorism, and a solid majority don't think Bush has a clear plan for ending it. He offered none in the speech, promising to bring troops home "as soon as possible," when Iraq is secure and democratic. Then he set about suggesting that Kerry would make a different choice. The idea is to make people afraid to change, even as they're craving it.

Standing on a presidential seal, with a golden eagle's wings spreading across a deep blue carpet, Bush basked in presidential gravitas — something a challenger cannot match.

On the domestic front, Bush said, "We've seen an economy rise to its feet" and ticked off a laundry list of small-business initiatives to keep it rising. He promised more money to train workers and for community colleges and more economic zones offering tax relief in the poorest areas.

He'll simplify the tax code (who wouldn't?) and put health centers in every poor county (why not?), but he didn't say how.

Some of the ideas were left-overs from his first term: health savings accounts and allowing workers to privatize parts their Social Security.

After months of courting conservatives, Bush dusted off his four-year-old "compassionate conservative" slogan and a poll-tested agenda to boot.

Voters will decide if he delivered, but that may not be the point. If Bush has his way, the election won't be about the issues, but the quality of men pushing them.

He's playing to his strength. Bush's ratings on personality issues such as leadership and likability are high, even among skeptical swing voters.

"Two months from today, voters will make a choice based on the records we have built, the convictions we hold and the vision that guides us forward," the president said. "A presidential election is a contest for the future. Tonight I will tell you where I stand, what I believe, and where I will lead this country in the next four years."

If an anxious nation gives him the chance.

Families first in New York

BY ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — With patrician mannerisms and that instantly recognizable jawline, father George 41, son George 43 and some 80 other Bush relatives were proof this week that politics is the family business of a large and far-flung dynasty.

There are fewer Cheneys, but all of the vice president's immediate family was on hand for the Republican convention — even an 8-week-old grandson.

For the big finale Thursday, three generations of each clan were onstage as President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney accepted the party nomination. The tableau was scripted from first daughter Jenna Bush's teasing references to family disciplinarian Gann, known to non-Bushes as former first lady Barbara Bush.

Twins Jenna and Barbara Bush, 22 and fresh out of college, represented the full flowering of Team Bush.

Until now, the twins were seen rarely and heard never, and strictly by off-limits for the press. The pair had daily campaign events at the convention, although the reviews weren't all good for a giggly stand-up routine introducing their mother in prime time Tuesday.

"I was actually very proud of my nieces," Doro Bush Koch, President Bush's sister, told The Associated Press this week. The twins "really just want to be young girls, be with their friends and move on with their lives, but because they love their mother so much they stood up."

Doro and Barbara Bush the elder made the rounds of Republican women's events, press interviews and other appearances this week, as did Lynne and daughter Liz Cheney. Less visible but here nonetheless were the president's brothers Neil and Marvin and their wives.

With all that love in the air, the few missing faces stood out.

Mary Cheney, the vice president's lesbian daughter, did not join her sister and the rest of her family in the hall Thursday night.

On Wednesday night, Mary had sat beside her lesbian partner in the family box to hear her brother's acceptance speech, but did not appear with the rest of the family afterward for smiles and waves on stage.

They got couple simply left after the speech, and it was not clear whether they jumped out of the more visible onstage family picture or they were invisible.

Also absent this week was Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who may have stayed away to avoid stoking rumors of a presidential bid in 2008. The Bush campaign said Jeb needed to tend to the aftermath of Hurricane Charley.

Even if Jeb had been here, he probably would have returned to Florida before his brother's acceptance speech Thursday. Hurricane Frances is expected to hit Florida on Saturday, and Jeb Bush has called out the National Guard.

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A Protester is escorted off the convention floor on the final night of the Republican National Convention on Thursday in New York.

Long week ends for anti-Bush protesters

BY MICHAEL WEISSSTEIN

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A week of rallies, marches and nearly 1,800 arrests left anti-Bush protesters drained and the city refuting allegations that demonstrators were held too long in police custody.

Protesters gave the Republicans a mostly mellow send-off Thursday following days of rowdy demonstrations. A noisy but nonviolent group gathered outside the convention site, and a candlelight vigil in Union Square later turned into a late-night march.

Some protesters spent almost three days in lockups, and city officials blamed delays on the sheer number of arrests. Lawyers for

the protesters alleged that people were detained to keep them off the streets during the president's speech, a charge the police department denied.

But all of the protesters — except six who were arrested on the convention floor — were freed late Thursday after a Manhattan judge ordered their release and imposed a fine of \$1,000 for every protester held past his declared 5 p.m. deadline.

The judge, State Supreme Court Justice John Catalano, did not revisit the issue of the fines after the protesters had been released.

City Corporation Counsel Michael Capozzi called the fines unwarranted, and said the city would consider its legal options when the fines are assessed.



AP

Weaker Frances still dangerous for Fla.



Hurricane Frances approaches Florida's coast as shown in a satellite image taken Friday morning.

2.5 million people told to evacuate as storm nears

BY BRENDAN FARRINGTON

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Fla. — Florida residents and tourists fled the Atlantic coast by the thousands Friday as Hurricane Frances — weakened but still dangerous — wobbled toward the state.

Winds and waves started picking up along the shore by midday.

The storm's core was expected to hit somewhere on the Florida coast on Saturday afternoon or evening, hours later than had been predicted. It would be the state's second pummeling by a major hurricane in three weeks, and an estimated 2.5 million people were told to evacuate.

Moving through the Bahamas on Friday, Frances weakened but remained a strong Category 3 storm, with 115 mph winds at late morning, down from 120 mph earlier in the day and 145 mph Thursday.

But forecasters said they couldn't rule out its strengthening again before striking Florida. And they said it still could push ashore with winds up to 10 feet high and dump 10 to 20 inches of rain, meaning deadly flooding was possible in a state with hundreds of miles of coastline.

Gov. Jeb Bush said Friday that he hoped people weren't comforted by the lower wind speed. "The storm is very unpredictable," he warned. "... We still don't know exactly where landfall will be."

At 11 a.m. EDT, the hurricane was over the Bahamas, centered about 220 miles east-southeast of West Palm Beach, and was moving northwest near 9 mph. Hurricane-force winds extended up to 85 miles from its center.

The delayed arrival allowed more time for preparations but frayed nerves, as well.

With its imposing size — a cloud cover about as big as Texas — and slow movement, Frances had devastating potential even if its winds don't regain their former speed. The slower the storm moves, the longer its winds and rain could linger, forecasters said.

Three weeks ago, on Aug. 13, Hurricane Charley struck Florida's southwestern coast and tore across the state. With sustained winds of 145 mph, it caused billions of dollars in damage to homes, knocked out power to hundreds of thousands and killed 27 people.

Two major hurricanes — defined as having sustained winds of at least 111 mph — have not struck Florida so close together since 1950.

In the Bahamas, fearful residents in the biggest cities boarded their homes, then hunkered down inside or fled to shelters.

For Florida, the hurricane warning covered most of the state's eastern coast, from Florida City, near the state's southern tip, to Flagler Beach, north of Daytona Beach, and a watch was added to Fernandina Beach, at the Georgia line.

Navy evacuates Jacksonville

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy began evacuating personnel and repositioning much of its aircraft from Naval Air Station Jacksonville as Hurricane Frances barreled toward the Florida coast, the second major storm to threaten the state in three weeks.

Navy officials started the evacuation late Thursday, repositioning P-3 Orion aircraft from NAS Jacksonville and flying them to Fort Worth, Texas; Norfolk, Va.; and McConnell Air Force base in Kansas, according to a press release.

"The type of aircraft determines where they go, and these are existing agreements we have with the various bases," NAS Jacksonville spokesman Bill Dougherty said. "Our goal is put them in a location that is away from the severe weather."

The base's S-3 Vikings left Friday for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; and Naval Air Station North Island, Calif. The SH-60 Sea Hawk helicopters left Friday for Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.; Norfolk and Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla.

Also, two logistics transporter C-40 Clipper, the military version of the large Boeing 737, left for Dallas and Norfolk, with a third flying to Rota, Spain, though that aircraft was making its normal run overseas, Dougherty said.

On the opposite side of the peninsula, Central Command and MacDill Air Force base also were taking precautionary measures, though there were no plans to evacuate the base as officials had done three weeks ago when Hurricane Charley hit. Charley missed the base, making landfall further south than predicted.

"Our preparation procedures are better refined from the recent practice we learned from Charley and we have a better collective appreciation of the power of a hurricane," said Maj. Matt McLaughlin.

"People are taking it very seriously, especially in light of the tragic loss of life in central Florida three weeks ago."

Hurricane Charley killed 27 people.

E-mail: Sandra Jontz at: jontz@stripes.osd.mil

Ga. residents stock up in case hurricane strikes

TYBEE ISLAND, Ga. — With Hurricane Frances too close and too powerful to ignore, residents of coastal Georgia — where no major hurricane has hit in more than a century — hedged their bets, stocking up on supplies and booking inland hotel rooms.

Gov. Sonny Perdue ordered a pre-emptive state of emergency throughout Georgia. The 100-mile coastline remained a possible target for the hurricane should it veer from its forecast path into Florida, where massive evacuations were already under way. Even if it makes landfall in Florida, however, its trek was expected to bring rain to the Southeast by Tuesday.

No evacuations had been ordered by midmorning Friday.

In the meantime, the state focused on handling the influx of Floridians. Interstate 75 resembled a parking lot at the Florida line, and state troopers planned to reroute some traffic onto a state highway. Along the coast, I-95 was moving more steadily but was still heavy, and most area rest stops were full. Officers were telling motorists asleep in their cars alongside the highway to move along. State Patrol dispatcher Renee Easterling said. Even before dawn, gas stations in Brunswick were packed, she said.

From The Associated Press

Former President Clinton enters hospital for heart bypass surgery

BY TOM HAYS

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former President Bill Clinton will undergo heart bypass surgery after complaining of mild chest pain and shortness of breath, his office said Friday.

Clinton was being admitted to New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia, a statement said. He had seen a doctor first on Thursday, and additional tests Friday revealed the need for the surgery, it said.

Clinton canceled a two-day joint trip with his wife, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, across upstate New York.

The senator and the couple's

daughter, Chelsea, will be with the former president in New York City, the statement said.

Clinton, 58, had a cancerous growth removed from his back shortly after leaving office in early 2001. It turned out to be basal cell carcinoma, the most treatable form of skin cancer. In 1996, he had had a precancerous lesion removed from his nose and a year before that had a benign cyst taken off his chest.

In Little Rock, Arkansas, Clinton's mother-in-law, Dorothy Rodham, said Clinton had called her to tell her about his chest pains. "He sounded wonderful as usual and very upbeat as he always is," she said. "I just told him how much I love him."

An angiogram given to Clinton revealed "significant blockage," said a Democratic official, who had discussed the condition with the former president's staff. It did not appear that Clinton suffered a heart attack, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The statement by Clinton's office said the former president "went to Northern Westchester Hospital yesterday afternoon after experiencing mild chest pain and shortness of breath. Initial testing was normal and he spent the night at home in nearby Chappaqua, New York. After undergoing additional testing this morning at Westchester Medical Center, doctors advised he should undergo bypass surgery."

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IN THE WORLD

Russians storm school held by rebels

Death toll rises to more than 200, officials say

BY MIKE ECKEL

The Associated Press

BESLAN, Russia — Commandos stormed a school Friday in southern Russia and battled separatist rebels holding hundreds of hostages, as crying children, some naked and covered in blood, fled through explosions and gunfire. Estimates of the number of dead were as high as 200.

The hostage-takers, who had been demanding independence for Chechnya, fled the assault, took refuge in a nearby house and a basement in the school compound and traded fire with security forces. After about 12 hours, the Russian government said resistance had ended, though four others were still being sought.

Twenty militants were killed, including 10 Arabs, officials said, and there were reports of three arrested.

Lines of dead children and

adults could be seen lying on stretchers, covered with white sheets. Grieving parents and loved ones knelt beside the dead.

Bodies of children also were laid out under a grove of trees near a hospital awaiting identification. Nearby anxious crowds gathered around lists of injured posted on the walls of the hospital buildings.

The Arab presence among the attackers would support President Vladimir Putin's contention that al-Qaida terrorists were involved in the Chechen conflict, where Muslim fighters have been battling Russian forces in a brutal war of independence on and off since the early 1990s.

Security sources accused al-Qaida of financing the takeover of the school and said Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev masterminded the raid, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. The report also said an alleged al-Qaida opera-

tive, Abu Omar as-Saif, coordinated the financing of the attack.

Officials at the crisis headquarters said 95 victims have been identified so far. Health Ministry officials said the total death toll was more than 200, the Interfax news agency reported.

Emergency Situations Ministry officials said 704 people were hospitalized, many badly burned.

Officials said security forces had not planned to assault the school, where the militants had been holding hostages — up to 1,500 of them, according to one freed captive — in the gymnasium since Wednesday morning. But the troops' hand was forced when the militants set off explosions and began shooting Friday afternoon, officials said.

A police explosives expert told NTV television that the commandos stormed the building after bombs wired to basketball hoops exploded in the gymnasium. A cap-



A man carries an injured child who escaped from a seized school in North Ossetia, Russia, on Friday. Commandos on Friday stormed the school, where hundreds of hostages had been held for three days. More than 700 people were arrested at the assault.

tive who escaped the school told NTV television that a suicide bomber blew herself up.

Troops were engaged in "fierce fighting" for hours with militants, who still held some hostages, said Valery Andreyev, the regional Federal Security Service chief. Three militants reportedly barricaded themselves in the basement.

Soon after nightfall, a large explosion issued from the school, and officials at the crisis operations center said later that resistance was over. They said four militants remained at large, but it was not clear if they held any more hostages. Channel One TV reported three militants were arrested after trying to escape in civilian dress.

A hostage who escaped told Associated Press Television News that the militants numbered 28, including women wearing camouflage uniforms. The hostage, who identified himself only as Teimuraz, said the militants began wiring the school with explosives as soon as they took control. He said they had placed bombs on both basketball hoops in the gym.

The militants stormed the school in Beslan on Wednesday morning and kept the hundreds of children along with parents who had been bringing them for the first day of school and other adults in the sweltering gymnasium, refusing to allow deliveries of food and water.

World leaders react to Russia crisis

BY JOCELYN GECKER

The Associated Press

PARIS — World leaders expressed horror over the bloody climax of Russia's hostage crisis Friday, saying the barbaric attack on school children showed terrorists have sunk to new depths, and some experts warned that Russia's Chechnya conflict was becoming the next crossroads of international terrorism.

Messages of solidarity and shock poured in from capitals worldwide.

"We have been confronted with a deep human tragedy," said Dutch Foreign Minister Ben Bot, speaking on behalf of the European Union.

As images of wailing mothers outside the school in Beslan, Rus-

sia were beamed around the world, and bloodied figures were seen wheeled away on stretchers, many decried the violence as heinous new territory for terrorists. "This is a new dimension of terrorism," said German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder.

"There are no reasons imaginable that could justify taking children, toddlers, babies and their mothers hostages," said German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer.

U.S. President George W. Bush called the siege "another grim reminder of the length to which terrorists will go to threaten this civilized world."

The European Union directed veiled criticism at Russia's handling of the crisis, saying it regretted the violence and bloodshed.

However, the 25-nation bloc understood that Russian authorities had few options, Bot said. He said the tragedy highlighted the need for Russia to end the long-standing conflict in Chechnya and that the EU would continue to push for a peaceful resolution to the fighting.

Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson said the "evil deed" of targeting children would bring the international community together.

From the Middle East, several leaders cabled Putin to convey condolences and denounce the hostage-takers.

Lebanese President Emile Lahoud said Beirut "denounces all forms of terror, especially that which threatens the lives of children and innocents."

Libya, Germany sign disco bombing settlement

BY KHALED AL-DEEB

The Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya — Libya signed an agreement to pay \$35 million in compensation for non-U.S. victims in the 1986 bombing of disco in Berlin, the latest step in Libya's attempts to put its international pariah status behind it.

The money will be distributed among 168 claimants: Germans who were wounded or suffered psychological damage and family of a Turkish woman killed in the blast. The April 5, 1986 bombing of the La Belle discotheque in west Berlin also killed 20 U.S. servicemen and wounded at least 230 people.

Lawyers are seeking separate compensation in U.S. courts for American victims. An executive of a foundation run by Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's son signed the agreement with German lawyers representing the families of the victims.

"The negotiations were very hard but we managed to overcome all the obstacles," Ali Abdel Salam, the executive manager of the Libyan foundation, said at a news conference following the signing.

Hans-Joachim Ehrig, one of four German lawyers who sat at the negotiating table

with the Libyans, said through a translator, "This is a happy day for the victims who were waiting all those years to get their compensation."

The compensation will be paid within six months.

After the compensation deal was first an-

nounced in mid-August, the German government said that it hoped to improve relations with Libya and that Chancellor Gerhard Schröder would visit soon.

After the disco bombing, then-U.S. President Ronald Reagan ordered U.S. airstrikes on the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi, citing evidence that Libya was involved. Libya says 41 people died and 226 were injured in the strikes.

A Berlin court ruled in 2001 that the bombing was organized by the Libyan secret service and aided by the Libyan Embassy in then-communist East Berlin. It convicted

four people of carrying out the bombing.

While the Gadhafi International Association for Charitable Organizations, headed by Gadhafi's son Saif al-Islam, is not formally part of the government, it clearly acts on the government's behalf.

Earlier this year, the foundation signed a \$170 million compensation accord with families of the 170 people who died in the 1989 bombing of a French jetliner.

Libya also has acknowledged responsibility and agreed to pay compensation for the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 that killed 270 people. And in 1983 it agreed to dismantle its programs for weapons of mass destruction and allow U.N. American and British inspectors to visit the facilities.

The United States announced in June it was resuming direct diplomatic ties with Libya.

"The negotiations were very hard but we managed to overcome all the obstacles."

Ali Abdel Salam, executive manager of Libyan foundation

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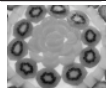
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YOUR MONEY



Left: Lillian Landrigan, right, fills a cavity in Doug Stewart's tooth with the help of assistant Star Mathews at the Petro Truck Stop Plaza. Landrigan had a practice in nearby Germantown, Tenn., and did a six-month stint in Iraq before opening the truck-stop practice.
Right: Truck driver Robert Kuffer of Louisiana returns to his rig after an emergency tooth extraction by Landrigan at the Petro Truck Stop Plaza.



PHOTOS BY THE (MEMPHIS, TENN.) COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Back from Iraq, dentist opens shop at truck stop

BY MARIA BURNHAM

The (Memphis, Tenn.) Commercial Appeal

MEMPHIS — Dave McIntosh pulled his rig into the Petro truck stop and saw a sign he'd been acting to see for a long time: "Dentist."

The dentist is Lillian Landrigan, and she opened her truck-stop dentistry about six weeks ago. Her hours are officially 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., but if she's needed she will rush from her home after hours and on weekends.

"For us, that's very convenient," said Knoxville-based McIntosh, who has had a couple of teeth pulled and a partial reconstructed.

"That's a real handy thing, that you can have someone you can go to any time during the day."

"When you find out you're headed here, you can give me a call and she fits you in. She works with us instead of trying to make us work her way, and that makes a big difference."

Opening a dental office that caters to truck drivers meant chang-

ing the traditional way such offices operate, Landrigan said.

Her schedule had to be more flexible, and the old system of an examination one visit and treatment the next had to be thrown out.

She also had to throw out the gas. Rendering a driver unconscious for a procedure and then sending him off in a tractor-trailer is generally not a good idea, she said.

This is Landrigan's second practice. She had an office in the area for more than a decade. But in

1999 she decided to join the Army full time, after serving in the Reserve for 14 years.

She served as a dentist for the Army and was sent to Iraq at the end of last year.

After returning, she opened the truck-stop location.

"I think it's a good business plan," Landrigan said. "Most truckers have excellent dental plans but are unable to take advantage of them because they are unable to stay at home."

Her two-person operation (she has one employee, Star Mathews) and new technology means she is able to keep overhead costs down. She uses a digital X-ray machine, which means there is no processing time, and insurance claims can be filed on secure sites over the Internet.

"The expense of dentistry is the time it takes you to do it and the number of people you have to employ," Landrigan said.

But even with her small office and time-saving equipment, she doesn't expect to start seeing significant profits for five to six years. Still, she is encouraged by the amount of walk-in traffic and regular customers she's seeing.

Her clients are mostly truckers, but Landrigan said some of her old patients have followed her.

She also is seeing a good number of local residents and those in the service industry, who, like truckers, find it difficult to visit dentists with traditional practices.

"I believe in this," Landrigan said. "I hope it's going to work." Most of her patients have not received dental care recently, she said. She does some routine cleanings, but mostly the patients are in some sort of pain.

Landrigan isn't the first dentist to think of opening a practice in a truck stop. There are a few scattered around the country. But it is not yet the norm, either.

"This is kind of unique," she said. "A wave of the future."

THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

| INDEXES | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|-------|-------------|
| 52-week | | Name | Last | Net Chg | % Chg | YTD 52-week |
| High | Low | | | | | |
| 10,253.63 | 1,538.47 | Dow Jones Industrials | 10,290.28 | +11.56 | +1.11 | +17.11 |
| 3,212.48 | 2,668.68 | Dow Jones Transportation | 3,162.49 | +55.96 | +1.80 | +51.74 |
| 201.26 | 238.26 | Dow Jones Utilities | 210.03 | +1.52 | +6.66 | +19.93 |
| 6,798.12 | 5,614.48 | NASDAQ Composite | 6,535.05 | +65.19 | +1.01 | +7.47 |
| 1,278.88 | 976.89 | Amex Index | 1,243.10 | +5.67 | +4.46 | +5.93 |
| 1,153.68 | 1,759.82 | Nasdaq Composite | 1,672.43 | +21.02 | +1.24 | +6.49 |
| 1,163.23 | 990.36 | S&P 500 | 1,116.31 | +12.40 | +1.12 | +5.77 |
| 618.46 | 507.89 | S&P MidCap | 586.57 | +25.20 | +8.89 | +18.31 |
| 696.42 | 482.13 | Russell 2000 | 598.78 | +12.32 | +3.33 | +9.21 |
| 11,371.14 | 9,955.20 | DJ Wilshire 2000 | 10,865.46 | +116.39 | +1.08 | +10.88 |

| NYSE | | | | | AMEX | | | | | NASDAQ | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|-------|------|-----|---------------------------|---------|-------|------|-----|---------------------------|---------|-------|------|-----|
| Most Active (\$1 or more) | | | | | Most Active (\$1 or more) | | | | | Most Active (\$1 or more) | | | | |
| Name | Vol | 00's | Last | Chg | Name | Vol | 00's | Last | Chg | Name | Vol | 00's | Last | Chg |
| Capitol | 225,736 | 1.11 | +83 | | NasdaqB | 79,756 | 34.78 | +51 | | Intel | 603,381 | 21.63 | +20 | |
| Apple | 180,016 | 12.79 | +1 | | SPDR | 189,017 | 12.38 | +1 | | Microsoft | 198,014 | 12.79 | +1 | |
| Microsoft | 198,014 | 12.79 | +1 | | SPDR | 189,017 | 12.38 | +1 | | Cisco | 600,382 | 20.38 | +21 | |
| General | 156,817 | 28.08 | +1 | | SPDR | 189,017 | 12.38 | +1 | | Microsoft | 198,014 | 12.79 | +1 | |
| Google | 153,817 | 31.12 | +34 | | SPDR | 189,017 | 12.38 | +1 | | SunMicro | 298,928 | 3.78 | +18 | |
| Microsoft | 150,016 | 12.79 | +1 | | SPDR | 189,017 | 12.38 | +1 | | Microsoft | 198,014 | 12.79 | +1 | |
| WalMart | 122,919 | 53.10 | +29 | | SP Fnd | 391,219 | 1.94 | +32 | | Conexant | 225,237 | 1.46 | +42 | |
| Microsoft | 109,013 | 16.29 | +13 | | SPDR | 189,017 | 12.38 | +1 | | Intel | 603,381 | 21.63 | +20 | |
| Microsoft | 108,014 | 17.10 | +35 | | SPDR | 189,017 | 12.38 | +1 | | Yahoo's | 189,999 | 28.33 | +82 | |
| Microsoft's | 105,014 | 41.80 | +29 | | SPDR | 189,017 | 12.38 | +1 | | MSFT's | 166,666 | 11.64 | +43 | |

| KEY DEFENSE STOCKS | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|----|-------|-------|
| Name | Vol | FE | Low | High |
| Alliant Technology | 20 | 14 | 50.37 | +2.7 |
| Aerojet | 34 | 34 | 36.69 | +3.51 |
| Boeing | 107 | 17 | 53.29 | +2.2 |
| Boeing | 107 | 17 | 53.29 | +2.2 |
| Boeing | 107 | 17 | 53.29 | +2.2 |
| Boeing | 107 | 17 | 53.29 | +2.2 |
| Boeing | 107 | 17 | 53.29 | +2.2 |
| Boeing | 107 | 17 | 53.29 | +2.2 |
| Boeing | 107 | 17 | 53.29 | +2.2 |
| Boeing | 107 | 17 | 53.29 | +2.2 |
| Boeing | 107 | 17 | 53.29 | +2.2 |

| KEY MUTUAL FUNDS | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Name | Vol | NAV | Chg | % YTD |
| Fidelity Invest: Global | 36.22 | 31.27 | +0.2 | +2.2 |
| Fidelity Invest: Global | 36.22 | 31.27 | +0.2 | +2.2 |
| Fidelity Invest: Global | 36.22 | 31.27 | +0.2 | +2.2 |
| Fidelity Invest: Global | 36.22 | 31.27 | +0.2 | +2.2 |
| Fidelity Invest: Global | 36.22 | 31.27 | +0.2 | +2.2 |
| Fidelity Invest: Global | 36.22 | 31.27 | +0.2 | +2.2 |
| Fidelity Invest: Global | 36.22 | 31.27 | +0.2 | +2.2 |
| Fidelity Invest: Global | 36.22 | 31.27 | +0.2 | +2.2 |
| Fidelity Invest: Global | 36.22 | 31.27 | +0.2 | +2.2 |
| Fidelity Invest: Global | 36.22 | 31.27 | +0.2 | +2.2 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| British pound | \$1.249 |
| Japanese yen (Sept. 4) | 107.00 |
| S. Korean won (Sept. 3) | 1,122.00 |
| Commercial rates | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.376 |
| British pound | \$1.249 |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.308 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 6.46 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 7.750 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | \$1.257 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 203.63 |
| Indonesia (Rupiah) | 1,666.14 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 4.5126 |
| Japan (Yen) | 109.46 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.2947 |
| Norway (Krone) | 6.46 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 56.08 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 2.58 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.7023 |
| S. Korea (Won) | 1,150.30 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 1.121 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 41.60 |
| Turkey (Lira) | 1,503,000.00 |

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates in Germany, purchasing British pounds in Germany is provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-euro, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

| London close | |
|--------------|------------|
| Gold | \$399.63 |
| Silver | \$6.98 |
| Palladium | \$1,100.00 |
| Platinum | \$1,100.00 |
| Rhodium | \$1,100.00 |
| Ruthenium | \$1,100.00 |
| Titanium | \$1,100.00 |
| Zinc | \$1,100.00 |
| Aluminum | \$1,100.00 |
| Iron | \$1,100.00 |

INTEREST RATES

| Prime rate | |
|---------------|--|
| Discount rate | 2.50 |
| 3-month bank | 2.50 |
| 3-month bill | 1.60 |
| 30-year bond | 5.00 |
| Sources: | The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com |

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Don't rush into repair work

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — When your home is damaged by a natural disaster, temper the impulse to rush into repair work. The Federal Trade Commission and the American Red Cross offer this advice on choosing a contractor:

■ Deal only with licensed and insured contractors, screen candidates and check references.

■ Get a written contract that gives details of the scope of work, costs and payment schedules.

■ If your contractor requests an up-front payment for materials, go with him by paying the materials or pay the supplier directly.

■ Never pay the entire cost of the job up front. A deposit of one-third of the total is standard.

write down their license plate and driver's license numbers.

■ Get a written contract for an estimate before allowing the contractor into your home.

■ Get estimates from several contractors. Find out what your neighbors are paying for repairs.

■ Make sure your signature on a bid is not an authorization to start work.

■ Verify that there is no cost for an estimate before allowing the contractor into your home.

■ Get estimates from several contractors. Find out what your neighbors are paying for repairs.

■ Make sure your signature on a bid is not an authorization to start work.



TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------|----|----|------------------|-------|-------|----|---------------|-------|-------|----|---------------|-------|-------|----|---------------|-------|-------|----|
| Albany, Tex. | HI 90 | LO 71 | PC | OK | Cleveland | HI 81 | LO 64 | PC | Hamburg | HI 83 | LO 62 | PC | Nashville | HI 87 | LO 68 | PC | San Antonio | HI 90 | LO 73 | PC |
| Albany, Ohio | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Colorado Springs | HI 75 | LO 58 | PC | Herbert Light | HI 83 | LO 62 | PC | New Orleans | HI 89 | LO 75 | PC | San Diego | HI 89 | LO 75 | PC |
| Albany, N.C. | HI 86 | LO 63 | PC | OK | Columbia, S.C. | HI 87 | LO 69 | PC | Houston | HI 90 | LO 74 | PC | New York City | HI 84 | LO 67 | PC | San Francisco | HI 87 | LO 58 | PC |
| Albany, N.H. | HI 86 | LO 63 | PC | OK | Columbia, Ohio | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | Indianapolis | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Newark | HI 85 | LO 67 | PC | San Jose | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Albany, N.J. | HI 86 | LO 63 | PC | OK | Concord, N.H. | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | Jacksonville | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | North Platte | HI 81 | LO 69 | PC | Seattle | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Albany, N.M. | HI 86 | LO 63 | PC | OK | Corpus Christi | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Key West | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Oklahoma City | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Louis | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Albany, N.Y. | HI 86 | LO 63 | PC | OK | Dallas-Ft. Worth | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Orlando | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Savannah | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Anchorage | HI 67 | LO 40 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Anchorage, Alaska | HI 67 | LO 40 | PC | OK | Denver | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Atlanta | HI 57 | LO 38 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Atlanta, Ga. | HI 57 | LO 38 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Austin | HI 90 | LO 71 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Austin, Texas | HI 90 | LO 71 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Baltimore | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Baltimore, Md. | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Birmingham | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Birmingham, Ala. | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Boston | HI 79 | LO 47 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Boston, Mass. | HI 79 | LO 47 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Boulder | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Boulder, Colo. | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Burlington | HI 76 | LO 57 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Burlington, Vt. | HI 76 | LO 57 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Butte | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Butte, Mont. | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Camden | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Camden, N.J. | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Chapel Hill | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Chapel Hill, N.C. | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Charleston | HI 84 | LO 63 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Charleston, S.C. | HI 84 | LO 63 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Chicago | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Chicago, Ill. | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Chico | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |
| Chico, N.C. | HI 89 | LO 70 | PC | OK | Daytona Beach | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Los Angeles | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | Portland | HI 89 | LO 74 | PC | St. Paul | HI 89 | LO 71 | PC |

Bad air affects work

NH DURHAM — Preliminary results from a University of New Hampshire study show a link between declining worker productivity and poor air quality. Researchers are surveying 500 workers at area hospitals and businesses once a week all summer about their health and how much time they've spent outside. Most of New Hampshire's poor air days fall in the summer.

Flashing out wolves

WY JACKSON — Bright lights and firecracker-like shotgun blasts are deterring wolves from further attacks on cattle in Grand Teton National Park, officials said. Ranchers haven't reported any destroyed animals since wolves killed a 400-pound calf Aug. 10.

Federal wildlife agents stationed near the herd began shining lights and exploding firecracker shells to chase wolves away.

Top choice for college

TN CHATTANOOGA — More high school students listed Tennessee colleges and universities as their top choice on the ACT college entrance exam this year, largely because of lottery scholarships, educators said. Although the number of students who took the ACT decreased this year, nearly 90 percent of the state's high school students still took the exam.

No copying in court

PA PHILADELPHIA — They try to try it into you in elementary school. No copying other people's homework. But apparently a federal judge in western Pennsylvania didn't get the message.

A federal appeals court on Tuesday tossed out a ruling issued last year by U.S. District Judge Arthur J. Schwab after ruling that the judge had copied his opinion, nearly word-for-word, from a memorandum written by one of the attorneys in the case.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Schwab made only two substantive changes to the memo, other than minor changes for grammar and style, then signed it as his own opinion.

In doing so, the court said, Schwab failed to show that he put the necessary thought and jurisprudence into the ruling.

Home demolished

GA CUMMING — Three generations of James Wheeler's family were sheltered by a farmhouse built by his grandfather about 80 years ago.

Now, there's only red dirt, weeds and scattered debris where the farmhouse once stood because a bulldozer accidentally razed the house for a new subdivision.

Dallas-based Centex Homes moved or demolished about 10 structures on the 83 acres around Wheeler's 22-acre plot to make



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

room for about 335 homes.

The sheriff's office investigated, decided it was an accident and, therefore, a civil matter.

Tax fraud indictment

MO ST. LOUIS — Donald W. Sanders, a former Missouri Eastern Correctional Center inmate, was indicted for preparing and filing false income tax refund claims. Authorities say Sanders, 46, used correction fluid and a copy machine to create fake tax refund claims for himself and other inmates in 2002 while serving time.

The refunds ranged from \$454 to \$1,867.52.

Native artifacts found

SD RAPID CITY — Crews doing a survey for a highway project south of Rapid City found an archaeological site that experts say provides a unique glimpse into the lives of early people. Experts say the artifacts are between 10,000 and 12,000 years old. Archaeologist Jim Donohue said deeply buried campsites such as the one found by the survey crew are much less common.

Bar hours extended

KY LEXINGTON — University of Kentucky students re-



First time at the fair

Xue Xiong and his wife, Mai Via Thao, ride one of the water rides in the Midway at State Fair in St. Paul, Minn. The Xiongs recently arrived from Thailand and this is their first fair. Son Chai Xiong is hiding behind them on the ride.

turned to town last week to find longer drinking hours at area bars.

Lexington bar hours were extended Aug. 1 from 1 a.m. to 2:30 a.m.

Students praised the change, but school administrators and police expressed caution. The university remains a dry campus, and there isn't an off-campus drinking policy, a school official said.

Laptops for students

MA BOSTON — Three state colleges are requiring new students to own laptop computers this fall under an initiative that will spread to other schools in coming years.

The requirement applies to first-year students this fall at Bridgewater, Framingham and Worcester state colleges. The rule will be extended next fall to Salem State College and Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and then in 2006 to Westfield State and Fitchburg State.

The rule does not apply to the University of Massachusetts system, and community colleges.

The colleges have a deal with Dell Inc. to offer packages including laptops, software and warranties to students for discounted prices of around \$1,200.

Radio host assaulted

WA SEATTLE — Police identified two people they believe were involved in an assault on radio personality Tom Leykis and detained one of them but released him without filing charges. Authorities were seeking a second person.

A 28-year-old Seattle man was taken into custody and released without being charged, police said, adding that the case remained under investigation.

Leykis, 48, based in Los Angeles and known for belittling callers, urging women to bare their breasts and other on-air flamboyance, was in town for a broadcast when he was knocked to the ground Aug. 23 outside a night spot, according to police reports.

Man can't send 'spam'

RI PROVIDENCE — A judge granted Verizon Wireless a permanent injunction against a Rhode Island man accused of sending millions of unsolicited text-message advertisements to cell phone customers in four states.

The injunction in federal court in Trenton, N.J., bans Jacob Brown from sending any more "spam" text messages. Verizon sued Brown in June after identifying him as the leader of a ring that sent the messages.

The messages were sent over the last several months to cell users in California, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. They advertised mortgage loans, products for losing weight, even adult Web sites.

Verizon had sought at least \$150,000 in damages, but none were awarded.



Big swinger Andrew Witkowski of Peoria, Ill., takes to the air on a swing set while listening to music on his iPod at Bradley Park in Peoria.



House lost in fire Firefighters with 14 fire units from three departments battle a blaze that engulfs a log cabin in Garden Valley, Texas. There were no reports of injuries; however, the home was a complete loss.



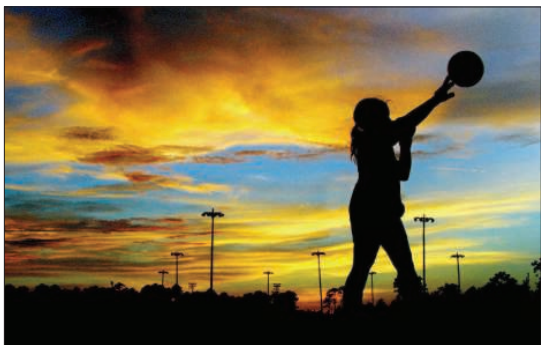
Corn harvest

Ground-up, high moisture corn mixed with dry corn is compacted into a silo at the Haw Ranch Feedlot north of Turon, Kan. The feedlot expects to store more than 1.7 million bushels of high moisture corn that will be fed to their cattle.



Final days of summer

BJ Schaltenbrand takes advantage of the final days of summer as he waterskis a slalom course on the Allegheny River near Brackenridge, Pa.



Soccer by sunset

Under a brilliant sunset, Miranda Courteaux, 8, blocks a soccer ball during a night practice at the youth soccer fields in Ormond Beach, Fla. Miranda is goalie for the Waves soccer team, which is made up of girls under 10 years.

Guilty in wife's murder

NY RIVERHEAD — A man who claimed his wife committed suicide by shooting herself three times — once in the back — was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for murder.

Eric Rose, 46, was convicted in May. He maintained his innocence at sentencing, saying: "It's very hard for me to show remorse for a crime I did not commit."

Prosecutors argued that Rose killed his wife, Wendy, in 2002 to collect \$500,000 in insurance.

Wendy Rose, 53, suffered a gunshot wound to the head, a graze wound to the chest and another wound in her back.

Kids forced to walk

ID HARRISON — Students are getting some exercise on their bus ride to and from school. Weight limits on a trestle bridge are forcing students to get off the bus, walk over the bridge, then get back on after the bus makes it across. The weight limit for the one-lane bridge that crosses the Coeur d'Alene River here is 10 tons. The school buses weigh up to 9 tons without students.

Men protest shelter

NH MANCHESTER — Two aldermen are planning community meetings next month to try to prevent a federal halfway house from opening in the city. Bill Shea wrote a letter against a proposed site in his ward and Frank Guinta received more than 100 signatures on a Web site he's set up to oppose a halfway house anywhere in the city.

Computer voter registry

MS JACKSON — Secretary of State Eric Clark is seeking proposals from companies to establish a computerized, statewide voter roll to help ensure more accurate elections in Mississippi.

He hopes to have the computerized registry up by the June 2006 federal primaries. Records show 34 of Mississippi's 82 counties have more registered voters than people who are old enough to vote.

Disabled patients moved

IN INDIANAPOLIS — The Muscatatuck State Developmental Center property in Jennings County will be used for national homeland security training. Patients at the center for the developmentally disabled are scheduled to leave by Jan. 1. Most will be moved to small private group homes. Gov. Joe Kernan plans to travel to the site, about 80 miles southeast of Indianapolis, Wednesday to announce the agreement.

Voter info not on Web

NV LAS VEGAS — The Clark County election office will remove voter addresses and phone numbers from its Web site, Registrar Larry Lomax said. Officials posted the public information after receiving requests for the data from politicians and campaign groups. But media attorneys filed to complaints from the public. The information will still be available at the election office.

Tooth found in soup

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A judge says the lawsuit just didn't have teeth.

Third District Judge L.A. Dever dismissed a lawsuit brought by Tina Keeney, who claimed emotional distress after alleging a can of Campbell's chicken noodle soup she split with her 13-month-old son contained a human tooth.

"I just don't eat," said the 37-year-old West Jordan resident. "It has affected the way I shop, the way I fix food, things that I eat."

Campbell offered to cover the cost of the soup — plus a little extra, and sent her a \$10 check. The company also wanted her to mail in the tooth.

Keeney took it to a lawyer instead, and the lawsuit was filed in September 2003.

Prison consultant hired

OH COLUMBUS — State prison officials are hiring a consultant to find better suicide prevention methods after nine inmates killed themselves this year. The latest was Cody Shivers, 31, who was found hanging in his cell at the Dayton Correctional Institution. Ten inmates killed themselves in 1999, the worst year for suicides since the state started tracking the problem in 1993.

Man's ashes land in attic

OR FOREST GROVE — An unwelcome guest recently crashed into Barbara Vreeland's home: the cremated remains of a Washington man.

The 46-year-old man died of natural causes in June. He wanted to be cremated and have his ashes scattered over Mountain View Memorial Gardens, a cemetery near Vreeland's home. Family members told police the bag of ashes slipped as they were circling the cemetery in a small plane they had hired for the day. The 4-pound bag crashed through Vreeland's roof and landed in the attic.

Trail construction stops

RI CUMBERLAND — American Indian artifacts may be present where work on a state-funded trail was halted, a preliminary report said. Construction of sections of the 1.4-mile Monastery Loop Trail has disturbed "potentially significant archaeological resources," the Public Archaeology Survey Team said.

Members of the Seaconke Wampanoag tribe said the findings bolster their claim to land that includes town-owned property where the trail is located.

Bathroom is off limits

MT HELENA — Even if you're puking, the potty is private, the Montana Supreme Court has ruled.

The high court says a police officer went too far when he walked in on a young woman while she was vomiting into the toilet during a loud house party.

The 6-1 decision said the unconstitutional intrusion into the privacy means evidence that Rebekah Smith had been drinking illegally — she was only 18 at the time — could not be used to prosecute her.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Spears continues to spit out latest eBay merchandise craze

BY JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Britney Spears' fans don't think the pop star's chewed gum is "toxic" — they're buying words of it on eBay.

There are over two dozen auctions of used chewing gum on eBay, each claiming their product has been spit out by the 22-year-old singer. Prices go as high as \$14,000, but most are for significantly less.

Though there is no way to verify the authenticity of the various wads, many postings include photos of a small piece of chewed gum, a copy of a ticket stub from the place of finding and a personal story of procurement.

One posting claiming to be the originator of the craze says the gum for sale was spat out in anger by Spears outside her Los Angeles home in early August. A picture of the gum, now going for \$26, accompanies the auction.

A seller from London, who is asking \$53 for a piece of gum obtained at Spears' 2000 Wembley Arena concert, declares: "I have had this item for over three years and am only listing it because of the current interest in Ms. Spears' habit for discarding gum!"

Brian Johnson, 25, of Mississauga, Ontario, had a posting asking for \$1,000, claiming: "You could take a DNA test to prove this is the real deal." Though he has since taken down the ad, Johnson told The Associated Press in a recent e-mail that he obtained the gum while working backstage at a Toronto concert in April.

"While I was holding the camera, I saw her spit it out," Johnson said. "I thought it would be funny to bring the gum home and show some of my friends. They got a big laugh out of it."

But buyer beware! Some of the auctions are fake. One seller offers a piece of Spears' gum from the 2004 MTV Video Music Awards that "still has her teeth marks in it." Spears didn't attend the event.

The bidding is also often fake. The gum now priced at \$14,000 was driven up by one person who bid against himself. Winning bids are mostly closer to \$5 to \$100.

Chris Donlay, a publicist for eBay, says the veracity of the gum claims isn't the business of the Web site. "As long as it doesn't violate our policies, then it's really between the buyer and the seller."

Actor Sizemore has probation revoked

LOS ANGELES — Actor Tom Sizemore's probation in a domestic abuse case involving former Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss was revoked Thursday because he failed to complete a drug test.

The judge allowed Sizemore to remain free pending an evidence hearing on Nov. 8.

Sizemore, 42, who has appeared in such films as "Black Hawk Down" and "Saving Private Ryan," was sentenced in October to six months in jail on misdemeanor charges of physically abusing Fleiss during their two-year relationship.

Authorities said Sizemore refused to provide a urine sample for a drug test at a probation office last month. "He simply walked out," prosecutor Robert Cha said.

Sizemore's attorney said the actor passed a test at his drug counselor's office that day, but he declined to take a test at the probation office because an officer he didn't recognize wanted to search him and he feared the results might be tampered with.

From The Associated Press



There are over two dozen auctions of used chewing gum on eBay, each claiming the gum was spit out by Britney Spears. Prices go as high as \$14,000, but most are for much less.

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

| SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2004 | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| AFN-EUROPE | AFN-KOREA | AFN-NEWS | AFN-SPORTS | AFN-PACIFIC | |
| 9:00 Jimmy Neutron | Radio Free Roscoe | Nightline | MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. | Radio Free Roscoe | The Best Of |
| 9:30 All That | The Best Of | Air Force TV News | | The Best Of | Entertainment Tonight |
| 10:00 Lizzie McGuire | Entertainment Tonight | Hardball With Chris Matthews | | | |
| 10:30 Switched! | | CHN Live | | | Headline News |
| 11:00 Focus on the Force | Headline News | | | | ESPNNews |
| 11:30 The Best Of | ESPNNews | | | | My Wife and Kids |
| 12:00 Entertainment Tonight | My Wife and Kids | The O'Reilly Factor | SportsCenter | My Wife and Kids | Half & Half |
| 12:30 CSI: Miami | CSI: Miami "Hard Time" | | | | Half & Half |
| 13:00 WWE Raw | | CHN Saturday Morning | MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. | CSI: Miami "Hard Time" | |
| 14:00 My Wife and Kids | Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Mother" | 20/20 | | | Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Mother" |
| 14:30 Half & Half | | | | | Headline News |
| 15:00 CSI: Miami "Hard Time" | Headline News | Today | | | Saturday Night Live |
| 16:00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Mother" | Saturday Night Live | | | | |
| 16:30 Headline News | Kickin' It Latest in music and trends | Wall Street Jrnl | SportsCenter | | Kickin' It Latest in music and trends |
| 17:00 College Football Corps News | College Football Teams to Be Announced. (Live) | America's Black Frm | College Gameday | | College Football Teams to Be Announced. (Live) |
| 18:00 College Football Teams to Be Announced. (Live) | | News From CNN | | | College Football Teams to Be Announced. (Live) |
| 19:00 FOX News | | | | | |
| 19:30 Headline News | | | | | |
| 20:00 Air Force TV News | | | | | |
| 20:30 20/20 | | | | | |
| 21:00 College Football Teams to Be Announced. (Live) | College Football Teams to Be Announced. (Live) | FOX News | College Gameday | | College Football Teams to Be Announced. (Live) |
| 21:30 FOX News | | | | | |
| 22:00 FOX News | | | | | |
| 23:00 FOX News | | | | | |
| 23:30 FOX News | | | | | |
| SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2004 | | | | | |
| 00:00 (9-30) College Football Teams to Be Announced. | (9-30) College Football Teams to Be Announced. | Headline News | College Football Oregon State at LSU (Live) | (9-30) College Football Teams to Be Announced. | (9-30) College Football Teams to Be Announced. |
| 00:30 Saturday Night Live | MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Live) | The Capital Gang | | MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Live) | |
| 1:00 Washington Week | | | | | |
| 1:30 Headline News | | | | | |
| 2:00 People in the News | | | | | |
| 2:30 Kickin' It Latest in music and trends | | | | | |
| 3:00 The Entertainers | ESPNNews | CHN Saturday Night | (15) College Football Notre Dame at BYU (Live) | ESPNNews | ESPNNews |
| 3:30 The American Athlete | ESPNNews | | | | |
| 4:00 Headline News | Bear in House | Dateline International | | | |
| 4:30 Hour of Power | Reading Rainbow (E) | | | | |
| 5:00 Celebration of Victory | Guinness World Records: Primetime | Larry King Live | (15) College Game-day Final (Live) | Movie "Ladies and the Champ" (2001) Olympia Dukakis, Marion Ross. | Movie "Ladies and the Champ" (2001) Olympia Dukakis, Marion Ross. |
| 6:00 Coral Ridge Hour | Gilligan's Island | CNN Saturday Night | | | |
| 7:00 Word in the World | The Simpsons | | | | |
| 7:30 Life Video | Bear in House | The Bellway Boys | SportsCenter | SpongeBob | SpongeBob |
| 8:00 Reading Rainbow (E) | Ebert-Movies | Fox News Watch | | | |
| 8:30 Movie "Ladies and the Champ" (2001) Olympia Dukakis, Marion Ross. | WWE Smackdown! | America's Black Frm | College Football Teams to Be Announced. | ESPNNews | WWE Smackdown! |
| 9:00 Targete SG-1 | Chris Matthews Show | | | | |
| 10:00 Headline News | Big Story Weekend Edition | | | | |
| 11:00 Destinations | Headline News | | | | |
| 11:30 Ebert & Roeper | ESPNNews | | | | |
| 12:00 Headline News | CHN Presents | | | | |
| 12:30 Air Force TV News | | | | | |
| 13:00 College Football Teams to Be Announced. (Live) | Movie ★ Hunter: Return to Justice! (2002, Drama) Fred Dryer. | NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup - Pop Secret 500. From California Speedway in Fontana, Calif. (Taped) | SportsCenter | Movie ★ Hunter: Return to Justice! (2002, Drama) Fred Dryer. | Movie ★ Hunter: Return to Justice! (2002, Drama) Fred Dryer. |
| 14:00 The Simpsons | Headline News | | | | |
| 15:00 Seinfeld | CBS News Sunday Morning | | | | |
| 16:00 WWE Smackdown! | That '70s Show | | | | |
| 16:30 Entertainment Tonight | Face the Nation | | | | |
| 17:00 Targete SG-1 | Headline News | | | | |
| 17:30 America's Black Frm | | | | | |
| 18:00 NFL Live | Late Edition Primetime | | | | |
| 18:30 College Gameday | | | | | |
| 19:00 College Football Teams to Be Announced. (Live) | FOX News | | | | |
| 19:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced. (Live) | | | | | |
| 20:00 College Gameday | | | | | |
| 21:00 College Football Kentucky at Louisville (Live) | CHN Sunday | | | | |
| 22:00 Meet the Press | | | | | |
| 23:00 NYRA World Thoroughbred Champ. | | | | | |
| 23:30 NYRA World Thoroughbred Champ. | | | | | |

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www.strips.com

STARS AND STRIPES

Your Hometown Newspaper

FACES 'N' PLACES

Schram leaves cast of USA's 'Monk'

Actress **Bitzy Schram** and "Monk" have parted ways. The critically acclaimed USA Network series that stars **Tom Shalhoub** as an obsessive-compulsive private eye is removing Schram's character, Monk's personal nurse.

"Monk" has decided to go in a different creative direction with some of its characters. Bitzy Schram will not continue with the cast," USA Network announced Tuesday. "We thank her for her notable contributions and wish her the very best."

Representatives from Schram's management company, Untitled Entertainment, released a statement as well: "Bitzy Schram and USA Network have amicably decided to go their own separate ways and Ms. Schram will not be returning to the television series 'Monk.' She wishes everyone connected with the show continued success and looks forward to pursuing the various opportunities before her."

John Kelley, a spokesman for USA, said the network has yet to develop what the new direction for the show will be.

It is a notable change of circumstance given that earlier this year, Schram was nominated for a Golden Globe for her performance as **Sharon Fleming** on "Monk."

She'd been with the show since its beginning in 2002. Schram is also well remembered as the sobbing right-fielder in 1992's "A League of Their Own," whose bawling prompts **Tom Hanks**' character to exclaim, "There's no crying in baseball!"

"Monk" is now in the middle of its third season, with new episodes to return in January. Shalhoub won an Emmy for his role as **Adrian Monk** in 2003.

Court rules against Kilmer in tax suit

The state Court of Appeals in **Sante Fe, N.M.**, has ruled against actor **Val Kilmer** and his ex-wife, actress **Joanne Whalley**, in a dispute over a tax refund of more than \$300,000 sought by the couple.

The court said Tuesday the Taxation and Revenue Department had no authority to act on the refund claim because the time period for doing so had expired.

Kilmer, who stars in **Oliver Stone**'s upcoming film, "Alexander," has a ranch near Santa Fe.

The refund claim was for \$304,217 in personal income taxes paid for the year 1995. The couple said they were due the refund because Whalley — who had filed for divorce — had moved to California in the latter part of the year.

The claim was filed at the end of 1999, after California tax officials made a preliminary determination that Whalley had been a California resident as of August 1995.

The amended 1995 New Mexico return claiming the refund, which was filed by the couple's accountant, wasn't processed because the department lost it.

In addition, for three months in early 2000 the agency decided to delay work on prior-year claims while it caught up with processing the current returns.

Under state law, if the department doesn't approve or deny a claim within 120 days, taxpayers then have 90 days to either file a protest or go to court. Kilmer and Whalley did neither, and the 210-day window for the department to act on a claim expired, the court said, upholding a department hearing officer's ruling.

The Legislature "intended a clear and definite outer limit, of 210 days, on the department's authority to act on a claim for refund," the court held.

Witherspoon baffled by tabloid attention

Reese Witherspoon doesn't understand the appeal of tabloid magazines.

"I can't believe somebody is so interested — particularly in all the pictures of me at the grocery store or at preschool," says Witherspoon, who stars as **Becky Sharp** in **Mira Nair**'s new film, "Vanity Fair."

"It's like every day I'm wearing the same sweat suit. It's like, 'Is this really interesting? And to who?' she told reporters recently, according to AP Radio.

The "Legally Blonde" actress says she and her husband, actor **Ryan Phillippe**, try to laugh at the photos and stories. "It's pretty funny, and it's amazing the kind of things that people can make up in their minds," she says.

Witherspoon and Phillippe, who appeared together in 1999's "Cruel Intentions," have two children — daughter **Ava**, born in 1999, and son **Deacon**, born last year.

"I'm busy with the kids and I want to spend all the time I have with them," she says.

"I have to be very particular about what I do because I only do one movie a year."

Witherspoon, 28, recently has been filming "Walk the Line." She plays **Jane Carter**, wife of country music legend **Johnny Cash**. **Joaquin Phoenix** plays Cash.

Stories and photos from The Associate Press



French singer Cherie Aiken, seen in a photo shoot in New York City.

French singer looking for U.S. pop stardom

By **CARYN ROUSSEAU**
The Associated Press

With her French accent and booming voice, 19-year-old Cherie has been dubbed by some as the new Celine Dion.

But the songbird is hoping with her U.S. album debut, appropriately titled "Cherie," that people will start to notice her for her own accomplishments — and not compare her to the French-Canadian singer.

"Now it's the moment," Cherie, who is from France, told The Associated Press. "Now we're going to see if people like me or not."

Cherie's pop dreams have been a decade in the making, when at age nine, she starting taking professional voice lessons in Marseille, France. She was still in her teens when she became a pop star in Europe, and drew the attention of record labels in the United States.

She's garnering more and more attention these days. Her first bubbly single, "I'm Ready," was featured in Lindsay Lohan's movie "Confessions of a Teenage

Drama Queen," and on the WB's "Charmed" before becoming a dance hit this summer.

She's also been on tour with "American Idol" star **Clay Aiken**, and even acted on a soap opera.

AP: You sing in English, French, Spanish and Italian. How did you learn to do that?

Cherie: Really because of the school I was in. You have to learn English. You have to. I was very into languages. I just picked different options.

AP: But you don't sound French on the album?

Cherie: I don't do it on purpose. It's easier for me to sing in English than to speak in English. I just want basically the people to be able to understand the words.

AP: How do you like being compared to Celine Dion?

Cherie: I'm very honored, but that's a lot of pressure because I'm at the beginning of [my career]. People are expecting me to be at her level.

AP: Your style is much softer than Britney Spears or Christina Aguilera. What do you think of them?

Cherie: We're just different people and we probably just have different influences. Mine

were Celine Dion and Shania Twain.

AP: What is it like touring with Clay Aiken?

Cherie: This is a lot of fun. I'm probably thinking that I'm on holiday during the summer because I'm traveling on the bus. [It's] almost like we're all going to camp. I'm doing what I like every night and in front of an audience.

AP: Did you enjoy the world of soaps when you filmed your part on "As the World Turns"?

Cherie: It was fun for me. I wasn't very different than what I'm doing every night right now. It was just like being on stage just singing.

AP: Was it scary to move to Los Angeles from France by yourself?

Cherie: It wasn't scary at all. Maybe because I was very young. I'm still young, but I was just ready to go for it. I thought everything would be fine and you can do anything when you're my age.

AP: Do you feel like you are on the brink of stardom?

Cherie: I don't feel like I am, really. I don't feel like I am yet.

AP: So, are you a diva?

Cherie: I don't know. I'm just a singer. What do you call a diva?



Kilmer



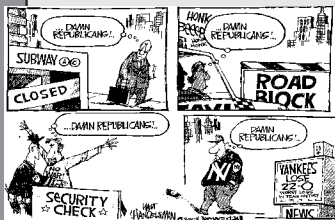
Witherspoon

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



PAT OLIPHANT/Universal Press Syndicate



WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Media Services



BILL DEORE/Universal Press Syndicate



WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Media Services



WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Media Services

Horoscope

The sensual Taurus moon reminds us to enjoy ourselves, while the sun in Virgo brings focus to a million small details that enhance our experiences. The result is complete satisfaction, as long as we choose to focus on the right details — the ones that support the idea that you're really living the good life. Be careful not to spend too much.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(September 4) Social prestige and glowing self-image reward your personal growth this year. Smooth public relations this month help you build your career. Sweethearts meet during the holidays. Love signs are Sagittarius or Capricorn. In matters of finance, stable investments are your best strategy before 2005. You'll remodel or buy property in March.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
That old saying "No pain, no gain" is pessimistic. Why must everything that's good for you come at a price? Refuse to buy into the belief that life has to be hard to be righteous. Maybe the most beneficial thing to do is also the most fun.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Intuition is your best ally, but don't leave your intellect at home. When all your faculties are working together, you're at your absolute best. Romance must be delicately handled. It's not fair to string someone along.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
Set up meetings — there's almost no one who won't take your call. An Aries is a strong supporter. Children manipulate you if you give them the chance. Have a structure in mind before you enter a situation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
On the one hand, you'd like to push yourself to do all that's humanly possible, and on the other, you're not sure how much is humanly possible. Even Lance Armstrong has to recharge his batteries, right? Listen to your body.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Your relationship with money is highlighted, and there are all kinds of feelings that go along with it. Be mindful

not to lose your self-worth to the balance of your bank account, as the two have nothing to do with one another.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You wake up with a new attitude. Build a margin for error in all of your endeavors, and you'll feel as though you've been liberated. Be on time for all appointments — no excuses, especially not the one about "traffic."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Serious ideas are brewing. Today's lessons involve listening, following directions and general compliance. If you can effectively do what someone else instructs you to do, you can do what you instruct yourself to do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
It's obvious to you what's right and what is wrong. But feeling you've got to be the judge and jury of the world is a heavy burden. If it's stopping you from communicating with people you care about, just drop it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You take your fun seriously, and why not? You pay money to experience more than you'd naturally be exposed to, and you want to get the most value for your dollar. Make an effort to talk to people you don't know.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You have incredible intellectual powers. You learn quickly and have a terrific imagination. These gifts are best utilized when you've also got people around you who will help you see your projects through to the end.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Success can be simple. Keep your objectives clearly in mind, and the "how" part of the equation is easy. A former flame wants to give your relationship another try. This satisfies your ego but probably not your heart.

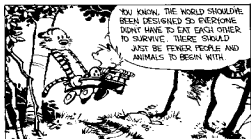
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Assert your independence whenever possible. Because of your perceived power, a competitor may unexpectedly withdraw, making you the winner by default. You will gain energy in social situations instead of feeling drained.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



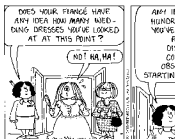
Jump Start



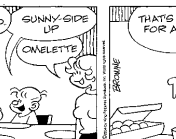
Zits



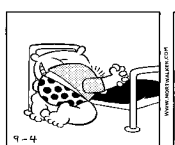
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



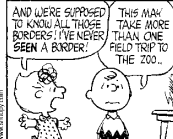
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



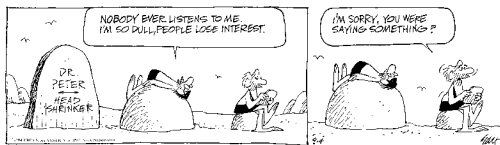
Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



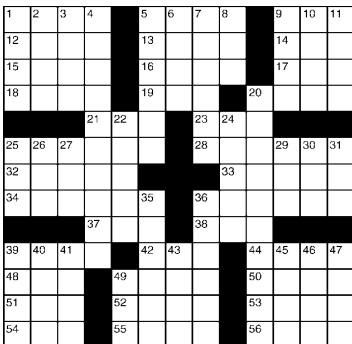
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Prelim to bone-breaking?
5 Tulip's earlier status

Down

- 9 Uraeus
12 Cruising
13 Duel tool
14 Brooks or Blanc
15 Sartorial woe
16 Bentley's bonnet
17 Id counterpart
18 Nurse
19 Hostel
20 Winter prediction
21 — Jrosia
23 — Jrosia
25 English noble
28 Disagree
32 Duck
33 Mail unit
34 Chicken
36 Crammed
37 Pitching stat
38 Mess up
39 Unfriendly
42 Feathery accessory
44 Pedestal occupant
48 Shade
49 Saunter
50 "Unh-unh"
51 Nippy
52 Dot on a map
53 Recognized

- 54 Score units (Abbr.)
55 Compared to
56 Fax
20 Pops
22 Heat
24 More judicious
25 Possibly will
26 "— been working ..."

- 1 Steam engine developer
2 "Gotcha"
3 Actor Penn
4 Tough and unsentimental
5 Losing
6 Fairy tale preposition
7 November meteor
8 Foundation
9 Congregation's call
10 Lily variety
11 20-Across remover
27 Chatroom chortle
29 Navigation hindrance
30 Antecedent
31 Roulette bet
35 Ohio River feeder
36 Sap
39 Fellow
40 Vote off the island
41 Not so much
43 — podria
45 Finished
46 Tourney format
47 Lascivious
49 Oscar Wilde's sine qua non

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-4 CRYPTOQUIP

CQU UDUYCPFYFBK AHC
TFMSOBDZFUT ZPHG CQU
PBYU. QZT GBTU BK

FDDUABD MQHPC YEPYOF.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: I SUPPOSE THAT NOURISHMENTS FOR SMALL CHILDREN COULD BE LABELED "FOOD FOR TOT."

Today's Cryptquip Clue: D equals L

Alcohol sours visits with father

Dear Abby: I am 26 and a single mother. My parents divorced when I was a teenager, but they have always been there for me emotionally and financially. For the most part we have always been a close and loving family who could go out and have a great time together.

The last few times that Dad and I have had drinks, we have said hurtful things to each other, and it has escalated to shoving and hitting. When we're sober we are affectionate and loving. We go on vacations with a great time with the whole family.

Do you have any idea what could be causing this?

—HUNG OVER IN MIDLAND, TEXAS

Dear Hung Over: Yes, I do. It's the alcohol. Since alcohol can cause a change in personality, it

is important that you and your dad should:

P.S. Are you aware that alcohol problems can run in families? It is vital that you warn your child about this important fact and set a good example.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is listed in your phone book. Contact them, and they will provide you with literature on this subject.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I'm embarrassed to admit this, but after two years of marriage, I still have not sent out thank-you notes to everyone who attended my wedding and gave us gifts.

Our wedding was during finals week of college, and immediately after that, we left for our honeymoon. One week after our return, we moved across the state and had to set up a home and find employment.

I cringe when I think about how many people have asked my mother if we received their gift and "where are the thank-yous." Is there anything I can do to eliminate this guilt before I'm condemned to live with it forever?

—GUILTY IN NEW YORK

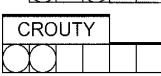
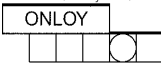
Dear Guilty: Yes. Buy a nice box of stationery and a pen, and write gracious notes to everyone who gave you a wedding gift. Say, "I apologize for the long delay in writing to you, but I want you to know how much 'John' and I are enjoying the lovely (!) you gave us for our wedding, and I want to thank you for your generosity in giving it to us."

Believe me, it's better to receive a tardy thank-you note than never to receive one at all.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: " " " " " "

Yesterday's

Jumbles: SHOWY POKER EMPIRE STICKY
Answer: What you can end up with when a candidate asks for "dough" — PIE IN THE SKY

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ask parents' input on sleeping plans

Dear Annie: I am a 24-year-old woman who lives several hundred miles away from my parents. I have been living with my boyfriend, "Keith," for two years, and my parents are fully aware (and mostly supportive) of our situation. They have grown to love Keith and respect our relationship.

Annie's Mailbox



The problem is that Mom and Dad are coming to visit soon. Keith and I have had a few discussions about sleeping arrangements, and we aren't sure how to proceed. We live in a large two-bedroom apartment, and there's no question that one of the bedrooms will be used by my parents. The question is, should Keith and I share the other room while my parents are here, or should he stay on the sofa? My folks aren't stupid. They know Keith and I share a bedroom, although I believe they prefer not to think about it. It will make my folks uncomfortable, knowing their little girl is sleeping with her

boyfriend in the next room. However, it's my apartment and I should be able to govern what happens, which includes sleeping in the same bed with my loving, committed boyfriend.

Keith has offered to sleep on the couch as a sign of respect to my parents. While I appreciate the gesture, I don't have anything to hide. Any suggestions? —Approval-Seeking Transplant

Dear Transplant: Give your parents some credit. They know you and Keith are living together and what that entails. They apparently are comfortable enough to visit regardless. Stop speculating and ask them how they feel about the sleeping arrangements, although it isn't necessary to give up your bedroom unless you want to. And Keith gets a big hug from us for being so sensitive and considerate. He sounds like a keeper.

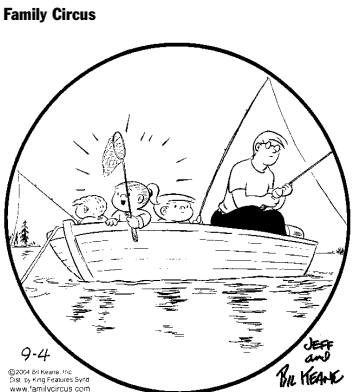
Dear Annie: You printed a letter from "Confused in Canada," who wanted to know if she should tell her cousin that she actually was her sister.

I am 60 years old and have a sister 12 years my senior. Eight years ago, my sister informed me that my twin brother and I were not sired by the person I always had thought was my father. I wish she hadn't told me. I feel as though I've been kicked in the teeth. My advice to "Confused" is to keep her trap shut and let the young girl continue to accept her aunt as her mother. To do otherwise now, at this late date, is to open up a can of worms garnished with anguish.

—Where Am I From? **Dear Where:** We can understand your bitterness at this revelation, although many people prefer to know the truth, no matter how messy it turns out.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate



"I wanna catch little Nemo in the net, not on a hook."

GRAFFITI



Domis the Menace

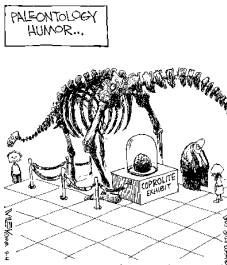


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The Far Side



Non Sequitur



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Bryant civil case poses risks for both sides

NBA star, accuser could seek to avoid more embarrassing revelations with settlement

BY JON SANCHEZ
The Associated Press

EAGLE, Colo. — In pressing on with her civil suit against NBA star Kobe Bryant, the woman accusing him of rape will not have to meet the higher standard of proof required in a criminal case.

On the other hand, the details of her sex-life could make spilling out, along with her medical and psychological records — the very thing she had tried so desperately to avoid in the criminal case.

Legal experts said both sides might be moving toward a settlement to avoid releasing potentially embarrassing or damaging information about not only the 26-year-old accuser, but the 26-year-old Los Angeles Lakers star.

As in the criminal case, the relevance of the woman's sexual conduct before and after her encounter with Bryant is likely to be the subject of a legal fight. Bryant's lawyers want that fight in the criminal case. In the civil case, U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch will have to decide if the information is relevant, said Mel Hewitt, an Atlanta attorney who has 20 years' experience representing victims of crimes including rape in civil court.

The procedure is almost identical to that under Colorado's rape-shield law, which generally bars defense attorneys from intro-

ducing such information unless they prove in a closed-door hearing that it is relevant, Hewitt said.

But Bryant's sexual history also could become evidence: The lawsuit, without elaboration, accuses him of "attempting to commit similar acts of violent sexual assault on females he has just met."

"I would suspect there are some land mines for both sides," said Arthur Hellman, a professor specializing in federal courts and civil procedure at the University of Pittsburgh law school.

"There's such a set of dangers of the material that they would each have to produce, and I would think both sides would have an incentive not to want to have all that got out."

The woman's lawyers filed the lawsuit in Denver federal court Aug. 10, seeking unspecified damages for pain and suffering they say she has endured since the alleged attack in June 2003 at a Vail-area resort. The suit was filed in federal court because Bryant and his accuser live in different states.

The lawsuit outlines generally the same case against Bryant as prosecutors did: That Bryant attacked the woman in his room at the resort where she worked, causing her emotional and physical problems that linger still.

To win the case, the woman's attorneys would have to prove by a

"preponderance of the evidence" that Bryant forced himself on the woman and caused physical and emotional injury. That is, they would have to show that it was more likely than not that he committed the offense.

In a criminal case, prosecutors would have had to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt, a more difficult standard.

Damages for pain and suffering and other non-economic losses in Colorado civil cases generally cannot exceed \$733,000, though damages for economic losses and physical impairment or disfigurement are not capped. Punitive damages cannot exceed the compensatory award and can be given only if the allegations are proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

The woman's attorneys, John Clune and Lin Wood, said Wednesday no payment was made to their client and no settlement negotiations have taken place. They were in a meeting Thursday and did not return calls.

In court, Clune told the trial judge his client had decided against testifying and asked prosecutors to drop the rape charges against Bryant because the accidental release of sensitive information — including her name — had destroyed her faith in the justice system.

Yet a civil suit will not give her



Lin Wood, left, and John Clune, attorneys for the alleged victim in the Kobe Bryant case, said their client had received no payment in return for refusing to testify, and that no settlement talks have taken place.

the same protections she had in the criminal case: Bryant's attorneys will be able to force her to sit for a deposition where they could ask her a broad range of personal questions, and her medical and psychological records could become fair game because she is seeking damages for emotional distress, pain and suffering.

"Litigation is for those involved — plaintiffs and defendants — very traumatic and it is almost always better off being resolved than proceeding," said Bill Keating, a veteran Denver attorney who specializes in civil litigation. "So if you look at it from that

point of view, there are a lot of good reasons for Bryant, even though he professes not to have done anything wrong, to make some payment and move on with his life."

Still, he said Bryant is trying to repair his reputation and seeking new corporate endorsements, and might want to risk a trial to win a verdict in his favor.

In a statement Clune said was part of an agreement between his client and Bryant, the NBA star apologized on Wednesday for his behavior and for what she has suffered. Bryant added, however, that the accuser had agreed not to use his statement in the civil case.

Kobe gets another chance to prove he's worthy

On the day he announced that he was jumping from high school straight to the pros, Kobe Bryant already seemed to have it all: a blossomed, too ready for someone so young.

The expensive shades perched on his head, the tailored jacket, the coyness playing to the cameras that day — all those things hinted at a maturity learned more than lived. That's no longer the case.

Whatever happened in that hotel room 14 months ago, Bryant has spent every day since facing the very real possibility of doing hard time. That should make anybody grow up in a hurry, even someone with so much promise and talent. Still only 26, his life and career ahead of him now that rape charges have been thrown out in Colorado, Bryant gets a second chance.

The old Kobe might have felt more bullet-proof than ever and poked up life where he left off. Will there be a new Kobe, one who understands that responsibilities come with his considerable gifts? For once, it will be about more than basketball since Bryant's quest to prove himself to the world. Bryant already demonstrated last season he can handle that kind of pressure. He averaged 31 points in games he played after a private jet whisked him from a Colorado courtroom to the Staples Center court.

But the people who covered his back then are gone. The Lakers belong to Bryant now, in a way they didn't last season, when fan support was almost uncondition-

Jim Litke



never really practiced.

"There will be a period where people keep a close eye on him to see if he messes up," Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban wrote back in an e-mail Thursday. "For maybe a year at the most. Then it will become a footnote that people refer to when they want to criticize Kobe or the NBA."

Cuban, you'll remember, was criticized in the media and scolded by commissioner David Stern for saying that Bryant's trial would be great business for the NBA. Turns out he did his homework. "I went back and tried to find examples in the entertainment business where it hurt," he said back then. "I couldn't."

Boxer Mike Tyson left a bigger drawing card than he went in, despite warnings from promoter Lou Duva that little had changed. "Why would anyone expect Mike

to come out smarter? He went to prison for three years, not Princeton."

Four years ago, linebacker Ray Lewis pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of obstructing justice after originally being charged with murder. Today, he does commercials and speaks to the NFL's rookie-orientation program about how to stay out of trouble.

And Cuban thinks Bryant is already farther along in the public rehabilitation process than either of them — no matter whether Bryant behaves differently or not.

"Fans will act differently because there won't be continuous tabloid coverage of him," Cuban said. "As far as a more public role, I'm not sure. I know the LA media will thrust it on him. It really depends on how the team does."

Until now, "how the team does" has always been a personal exercise for Bryant. When teammates got on him for taking too many shots, he responded by not shooting at all. That way, when the Lakers lost, it was their fault. When Jackson called him out as immature, Bryant responded with side stories that removed most of the doubt.

He always modeled himself after Michael Jordan, but he never grasped the bigger picture. Instead of acting like the sheriff — Jordan made it his duty to keep everybody else in line — Bryant fixated on the gunslinger. He thought he could play or, worse yet, talk his way out of any jam.

Teamwork was always something the other guys on his team were supposed to worry about. That won't be enough, especially now.

Whether Bryant got that message remains to be seen. He's still got his freedom, most of the crowd on his side, and a seven-year, \$136 million contract besides. Maybe he left that much and more on the table in endorsements, but it's still enough money to insulate him from taking any further risks. His skills are undiminished, too, and on any night Bryant chooses, he can erase any doubts about who's the best player on the floor.

In short, Bryant can go on doing pretty much as he pleases, shrugging off responsibility and leaving everybody else to explain their own contribution. It's worked so far, and the only thing that will have changed by the time the season opens in a few months is that the memory will be even dimmer.

"It falls into the category of short-attention-span theater," Cuban says. "But maybe Bryant is finally willing to undertake that long, tough slog to become the player he promised to be on that spring afternoon in 1996, the once-in-a-generation talent who grows up understanding that his legacy rests not just on being the best, but on making everybody else around him better."

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: jlitke@ap.org

Smith No. 20 Utes roll to opening win

BY DOUG ALDEN
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Alex Smith made sure Utah justified its first preseason ranking.

Smith overcame some early accuracy problems and threw for three touchdowns, ran for two more and finished with 435 yards of offense to lead the No. 20 Utes past Texas A&M 41-21 Thursday night.

Smith and the Utes backed up their ranking with 582 yards and avenged their only non-conference loss of last season.

Local officials dubbed Thursday "Utah Day" and there were hours of pregame festivities before the Utes took the field. Then, the fun really started.

"If we spread you out like that, it's going to be tough to stop us," said Smith, who passed for a personal-best 359 yards. "It was nice, very nice."

Utah led 7-0 barely a minute into the game and scored the first four touchdowns, despite some early incompletions from Smith.

"That first half couldn't have been easier if we take advantage of all those," Smith said of a handful of overthrown passes and several others that were dropped. "I was a little tired up, I've been waiting for this game for so long."

Smith, who completed 21 of 29 passes, topped his 340-yard passing performance against Oregon last year. He also ran 13 times for 76 yards.

The Aggies, who last season lost their last three games and finished last six, seemed determined to struggle on defense. Utah scored five times on defensive blunders in which the Utes were all but un-

touched on their way into the end zone.

Texas A&M quarterback Reggie McNeal ran for two touchdowns, including a 59-yard late in the second quarter, but he struggled with his passing.

"Too many drops and too many miscues here and there. They just never let us get going," A&M coach Dennis Franchione said. "The Utes played like they deserved to be in the Top 20."

A&M used 14 freshmen in its first season-opening loss in four years. The last time the Aggies opened with a loss was also the last time they started the season on the road, a 24-10 loss at Notre Dame in 2000.

Utah was not an ideal opponent for a team that went 0-5 last season away from Kyle Field. The Utes lost to the Aggies 28-26 a year ago when a 2-point conversion attempt failed in the final seconds. There was talk of revenge as the game approached, but the Utes certainly felt vindicated after winning in front of a sellout crowd of 45,419 at Rice-Eccles Stadium.

"I love to see that on national television, with Rice-Eccles packed to the walls and our student section going crazy," Utah coach Urban Meyer said. "It was a great night for Utah football."

Smith appeared a little anxious at the start. He overthrew three receivers who had a stride or two in their hands on the play that could have resulted in touchdowns in the first half. Utah receivers dropped at least three passes early in the game.

Smith also made an errant option pick behind Marty Johnson, who recovered the ball for a



Utah quarterback Alex Smith (11) is tackled by Texas A&M defensive back Bryant Singleton after a 24-yard gain on a keeper Thursday in Salt Lake City. Smith amassed 435 yards of offense in the Utes' 41-21 victory.

20-yard loss. But with the way A&M's defense was struggling, the Utes could afford some mistakes.

Steve Savoy caught a short pass over the middle and turned it into a 78-yard touchdown 1:13 into the first quarter, then scored easily on an end-around from 9 yards out to start the second quarter.

Smith ran through a wide hole for a 7-yard TD and had a 38-yard scoring pass to John Madsen, who didn't have an A&M player within 10 yards when he pulled down the pass and trotted down the sideline. Smith also scored on a 37-yard run.

Johnson, playing for the first time in two years because of injuries and a one-year suspension for drunken driving, gained 77 yards on 20 carries for the Utes.

Terrence Murphy caught eight passes for 116 yards and became A&M's all-time leader in interceptions, passing Bethel Johnson's mark of 117. Murphy has 124 career interceptions.

Rough start for Price as UTEP's head coach

BY MEL REISNER
The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Mike Price had one ordinal just trying to find a job. His coaching debut at UTEP turned out to be another.

"Our expectation was to win the game, and we certainly didn't do that," Price said after watching Arizona State rout the Miners 41-9 Thursday night.

"We were beaten soundly. I'm disappointed because the players have done everything that I've asked them to do."

Price landed in El Paso after being dismissed by Alabama for questionable conduct after a night of heavy drinking and partying at a strip club in Florida in April 2003.

UTEP, which had won only six

games in three previous seasons, took a chance on the 1997 national coach of the year.

Price said his instincts may have been rusty after a year away from Washington State, but he didn't feel the national attention directed at his return was a distraction.

"They seemed very, very focused and they gave it a good effort," he said. "They didn't play real great, but they gave it a good effort."

Price took over a 2-11 team, and the result was predictable against the Sun Devils, who returned 47 letterman anxious to forget last year's 5-7 record.

The Sun Devils' Andrew Walter threw three touchdown passes and Emmanuel Franklin scored on one of his two interceptions.

Reyes: Running back's success hasn't translated into wins

REYES, FROM BACK PAGE

Reyes' success has not led to as many victories as he would like over the past two seasons. Syracuse struggled to 4-8 two years ago and finished at 6-6 last fall, the two worst seasons in the 14-year tenure of Pasqualetti.

Pasqualetti is counting heavily on both Reyes and his backfield partner, Damien Rhodes, to lead the Orange back this season. As for the hype over the Heisman, that's a dream long away if it doesn't quickly disappear.

"We're not going to give it more priority than we should," Pasqualetti said.

"I'd love him to win the Heis-

man, but I think the most important thing is if the team wins and has great success. As long as we keep winning, then that [Heisman talk] will keep going. If we don't win, then that goes out the window."

Reyes is keenly aware of his accomplishments and what his legacy will be when he leaves Syracuse. He harbors no illusions about where he fits in among his predecessors, though.

"Even if I, as far as yards and touchdowns, pass them, when I leave here I still think Ernie Davis, Jim Brown, Floyd Little, Larry Conna, and Joe Morris are ahead of me," Reyes said.

"I just have so much respect for those guys."

Many games, but few real contests on this week's schedule

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

For the college football fan who can never get enough, this week-end is for you.

With the NFL season a week away, college football has practically taken over Labor Day weekend. Games began Thursday night and continue through Monday.

Top-ranked Southern California and No. 23 Oregon are the only Top-25 teams not in action. The one drawback is that a quantity over quality situation.

There are few juicy matchups among the top teams. The best game on the schedule was postponed because of Hurricane Frances. No. 5 Florida State will play at No. 6 Miami next Friday night instead of Monday night. Also, No. 11 Florida postponed its Saturday game at Gainesville against Middle Tennessee.

Most of the top teams will ease into their seasons by hosting non-conference patsies — though the one suggesting that to the coaches expected to ring up an easy victory.

"First games are always scary

College picks

because you don't have previous film," said Missouri coach Gary Pinkel, whose Tigers are a 33-point favorite against Arkansas State. "You have to be able to adjust to what happens."

Some of the other glaring mismatches include: No. 3 Georgia against Division I-AA Georgia Southern (No. 12 Purdue is taking on I-AA Western Kentucky; and No. 17 Auburn against Louisiana-Monroe.

The fun started Thursday night with No. 20 Utah opening at home against Texas A&M, while Mike Price was to make his debut as UTEP coach against Arizona State.

Friday night's schedule was light, with Washington State at New Mexico the only game.

After a full load on Saturday, Sunday's slate is highlighted by Syracuse (No. 24 Purdue is taking on I-AA Western Kentucky; and No. 14 Tennessee hosting UNLV) at night.

"My opinion is it would be aw-

fully nice to play at 1 o'clock every Saturday, but I think we also understand what drives this thing," Syracuse coach Paul Pasqualetti said. "To have that kind of exposure, there's some advantages to that so there's a price to pay for some inconvenience."

Even without FSU-Miami, there's still a couple of games scheduled for Monday.

Who needs the NFL?

The picks:

Bowling Green (plus 32½) at No. 2 Oklahoma: No MAC magic here as Jason White begins possible Heisman encore. **OKLAHOMA 40-16**

Georgia Southern (no line) at No. 3 Georgia: One of Division I-AA's best against one of I-AA's best is no contest. **GEORGIA 34-7**

Oregon State (plus 18½) at No. 4 LSU: OSU's sticky corners will be tough on LSU's new starting QB and receivers. **LSU 24-14**

North Texas (plus 26) at No. 7 Texas: Longhorns are 7-0 against Mean Green, including 27-0 at home. **TEXAS 27-7**

Miami (Ohio) (plus 13) at No. 8 Michigan: RedHawks' own longest winning streak in the country at 14. **MICHIGAN 34-14**

Cincinnati (plus 15) at No. 9 Ohio State: Bearcats nearly beat Buckeyes in 2002. **OHIO STATE 17-10**

East Carolina (plus 28½) at No. 10 West Virginia: Mountaineers QB Rasheed Marshall could run for 100. **WEST VIRGINIA 41-17**

Middle Tennessee (plus 28) at No. 11 Florida: Gators opened last season with 65-3 win over San Jose State. **FLORIDA 52-14**

Western Kentucky (no line) at No. 12 Kansas State: K-State's fifth game in last three seasons against I-AA opponent. **KANSAS STATE 48-9**

No. 13 California (minus 13½) at Air Force: Falcons' option offense vs. Cal's balanced and versatile attack. **CALIFORNIA 27-17**

Wake Forest (plus 11½) at No. 15 Clemson: Clemson's last loss was to Wake Forest. **CLEMSON 45-17**

No. 16 Virginia (minus 16) at Temple: Why are the Cavaliers playing at Temple? **VIRGINIA 38-5** Louisiana-Monroe (plus 38) at No. 17 Auburn: Tigers opening easy after last year's 0-2 start. **AUBURN 50-10**

Arkansas State (plus 33) at No. 18 Missouri: Tigers QB Brad Smith runs for 100 and throws for 150 — in about two quarters. **MISSOURI 48-10**

Kent State (plus 30) at No. 19 Iowa: Golden Flashes have no shot without suspended QB Joshua Cribbs. **IOWA 36-7**

UCP (plus 23) at No. 21 Wisconsin: George O'Leary will miss UCP's opener to attend the funeral of his 83-year-old mother. **WISCONSIN 35-17**

Northern Illinois (plus 14) at No. 22 Miami: Huskies by 24. Terps in DeKalb, Ill., last year, 20-13 in OT. **MARYLAND 24-14**

Toldeo (plus 11½) at No. 25 Minnesota: Rockets are class of MAC with QB Bruce Gradkowski leading the way. **TOLDEO 31-27**

Sunday

UNLV (plus 20) at No. 14 Tennessee: Vols to start freshman QB — either Erick Engle or Brent Scheffer. **TENNESSEE 38-13** Syracuse (plus 12) at No. 24 Purdue: Kyle Orton is Heisman darkhorse for Bolleermakers. **PURDUE 30-20**

Pats rest starters in 31-0 loss

BY HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — The Super Bowl champs ended their exhibition season with a three-game losing streak and a 31-0 setback.

At least they should be rested for their regular-season opener. None of the New England Patriots' 22 first-stringers played on Thursday night when the Jacksonville Jaguars pulled away with four touchdown passes in the fourth quarter.

Coach Bill Belichick gave the regulars a breather because they played an unusually long time just five days earlier in a 20-17 loss at Carolina and they'll play the season opener against Indianapolis on Thursday night.

"The guys that we didn't play" spent the past few days preparing for the Colts, Belichick said. "We put in a number of things we wanted to get going with them."

The Patriots go into that game with a 15-game winning streak in regular and postseason games, three short of the NFL record set by Miami in 1972 and 1973.

"Any time you have the Colts coming to town it's not a bad thing to get some rest," said defensive end Richard Seymour.

New England ended the exhibition season 1-3 with its first exhibition home loss since 2000. Jacksonville was 3-1, but the Jaguars' first-string offense failed to produce a touchdown.

"I'm not really concerned," Jag-



Jacksonville cornerback Juran Bolden (21) intercepts a pass intended for New England receiver Ben Hill Johnson on Thursday. The Jaguars forced five turnovers.

uars coach Jack Del Rio said. "You would like to be a little more explosive in these preseason games, but overall I think we're going to have a good offense."

Byron Leftwich went 4-for-8 for 24 yards in three series in his final tuneup for the opener Sept. 12 at Buffalo.

Josh Scobee kicked a 31-yard field goal with 8:03 left in the third quarter before David Garrard threw one touchdown pass, and Quinn Gray threw three. Garrard hit Troy Edwards with a 25-yarder, and Gray connected with Jermaine Lewis for 4 yards. Ernest Wilford for 12 and Cortez Hankton for 17. Wilford, a fourth-round pick this year from Virginia Tech, led receivers with six catches for 122 yards.

With Tom Brady charting plays, Rohan Davey played all but the Patriots' final series. The offensive player of the year in NFL Europe went 13-for-25 for 104 yards and two interceptions. Mike Cloud led New England's rushers with 93 yards on 19 carries.

Parcels seeking productivity

Testaverde, George punchless vs. Chiefs' leaky defense

BY JAIME ARON
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — After seeing the way his aging running back, even older quarterback and questionable group of cornerbacks closed the preseason, Bill Parcels considers the Dallas Cowboys a work in progress.

"I'm going to be looking at the waiver wire, that's for sure. I'm going to be looking pretty close," Parcels said following a 24-20 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs on Thursday night. "We've got to try to improve our talent level a little bit. Anybody can tell from looking at us."

Dallas' starters were unimpressive, with Vinny Testaverde hitting nearly as many defensive backs as receivers and Eddie George having more carries than yards. Kansas City was slowly eroded by penalties, then had consecutive touchdown drives by throwing at the Cowboys' right cornerback.

Once both teams took over their starters, Dallas backup quarterback Tony Romo led three straight scoring drives and the defense made it hold up.

Romo, who never played as an undrafted rookie last season, went 12-for-14 for 141 yards. He drove for a field goal just before halftime and led TD drives of 70 and 65 yards in the third quarter, taking the Cowboys from a 14-7 deficit to a 24-14 lead.

Romo likely won the second-string spot, especially since Drew Hansen went 0-for-4 with an interception on his first pass.

"I've been gaining confidence each week," said Romo, who ran for the winning touchdown in the last minute of another preseason game. "I was able to get into a rhythm tonight and our wide receivers and offensive line did great work."

Even in defeat, Chiefs coach Dick Vermeil felt good because starting quarterback Trent Green completed seven of nine passes for 72 yards and a touchdown, then backup Todd Collins went 5-for-5 for 104 yards with a 33-yard TD pass.

"They put in a pretty good day's work," Vermeil said. "Both quarterbacks can keep performing the way they have been and I will stay happy."

Testaverde, 4-for-10 for 40 yards with one interception, missed Keshawn Johnson all five times he threw his way. Cornerback William Barteau came closer to catching the first two and the last one was redeemed by a pass interference call.

George gained just 8 yards on nine carries against the Chiefs' first-team defense. He finished the preseason with 51 yards on 24 carries.

The Cowboys' rookie running back Julius Jones didn't play because he hurt his ribs Monday night.



San Diego's Philip Rivers went 13-for-16 for 85 yards with a TD and one interception Thursday.

Chargers' QB derby remains unresolved

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Drew Brees completed all five of his passes, engineered two touchdowns in one quarter and watched rookie Philip Rivers struggle until San Francisco put in its backup defenders.

Despite that, Brees hasn't been announced as San Diego's starting quarterback.

Coach Marty Schottenheimer was pleased with both quarterbacks during San Diego's 31-15 victory over San Francisco on Thursday night but wasn't ready to pick a starter for the season opener at Houston on Sept. 12.

"We'll evaluate everything and make a decision on Sunday or Monday," Schottenheimer said.

Brees, whose poor play last year contributed to San Diego's decision to acquire Rivers, went 5-for-5 for 71 yards, including a 35-yard TD pass to Eric Parker, and led San Diego to 14 points on three drives.

Rivers, the fourth pick in this year's draft who missed the first two exhibition games in a contract holdout, went 5-for-14 with two interceptions in his debut against Seattle and didn't look any better in the first half against San Francisco.

The 49ers, who finished the preseason winless for the first time since 1974, saw quarterback Tim Rattay thrive in his first extended action this year. After missing the first two exhibition games with a sore arm, he went 7-for-8 for 101 yards Thursday.

In other games Thursday:

Cardinals 33, Broncos 21: Arizona's Neil Rackers kicked four field goals and Josh McCown and Sean King combined to complete 14 of 19 passes for the Cardinals in Denver.

Broncos quarterback Danny Kanell regressed after a solid start to the preseason, going 2-for-8 for 24 yards before being replaced in the second quarter.

Seahawks 23, Vikings 21: Trent Diller completed 17 of 20 passes for 213 yards and two first-half touchdowns in Seattle and backup Seneca Wallace led a late drive that set up Josh Brown's wing 28-yard field goal with no time remaining.

Raiders 28, Rams 24: Oakland's Rich Gannon (5-for-8, 45 yards) threw his first touchdown pass of the preseason while teammate Kerry Collins went 5-for-5 for 88 yards and a touchdown in Oakland, Calif.

Buccaners 17, Texans 9: Michael Pittman, who got extensive playing time because the Bucs rested starter Charlie Garner, ran for 71 yards in 12 carries and Tampa Bay held host Houston to the field goal game.

Lions 20, Bills 17: Drew Bledsoe led Buffalo's first-string offense to its only touchdown of the preseason, but three Lions defensive backs were hurt in Detroit. Safety Brock Martin (bruised right knee), cornerback Fernando Bryant (neck stinger) and cornerback Rod Babers (shoulder) left the game with injuries.

Panthers 16, Steelers 13: Rod Rutherford's 57-yard completion to Eugene Baker in the fourth quarter set up John Kassar's third field goal, and visiting Carolina finished its second consecutive unbeaten preseason.

Ravens 27, Giants 17: Baltimore's Kyle Boller threw a touchdown pass and Chris McAlister scored on an interception return at Giants Stadium to lead the Ravens, who got a scare when seven-time Pro Bowl tackle Jonathan Ogden sprained his left knee. His status for the season opener is uncertain.

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Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova, above, won the first seven games against Jelena Jankovic on Thursday before struggling, then pulling away for 6-0, 6-7 (5), 6-1 victory in the second round.

Changes on horizon for U.S. after unsightly loss to Russia

BY BRIAN MURPHY
St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Forget about the ghosts of Nagano and 1998. North America suddenly has become a place of misery for the U.S. hockey team.

Bilized by a more energetic and better prepared opponent for the second consecutive game, on home ice this time, Team USA coughed up a hairball Thursday night in the form of an ugly 3-1 loss to Russia in a World Cup game at Xcel Energy Center.

Without the saving graces of overburdened goalie Robert Esche, the United States would have been thrashed even worse.

The loss left the United States team shaken and searching for answers, while coach Ron Wilson vowed wholesale changes to energize a moribund lineup.

Forward Keith Tkachuk, who scored the U.S. goal and took two ill-timed frustration penalties in the closing minutes, said he was "embarrassed by the way we came out and played this hockey game."

"They came out and just took it to us early," Tkachuk said. "It was very frustrating to see us play the way we did the whole game. It's just not our hockey. We've got to turn this around or else we'll be traveling for the finals."

With two losses, the United States faces a must-win game against Slovakia on Friday

night in St. Paul for their salvation, if not their survival.

All eight teams are guaranteed a spot in the playoff round. But the United States is guaranteed to finish behind undefeated Canada in the North American pool standings. Only a victory over Slovakia and a Russian victory over Canada on Saturday in Toronto would keep Team USA from playing its quarterfinal in Toronto.

The Americans vowed to roll out full throttle after sleepwalking through the first 30 minutes of a 2-1 loss to Canada two nights earlier. But the United States found itself backpedaling to a fervent Russian team unwilling to roll over simply because it was on American ice.

The Russians were expected to be a weaker team after a series of high-profile defections thinned their offense and left them without a proven NHL goaltender. It hardly mattered as they outlasted Canada 45-21 and received stellar netminding from Ilya Bryzgalov to win their tournament opener.

Alexei Kovalev snapped a 1-1 tie five minutes into the third period with a brilliant one-man effort. With the United States scrambling to catch up to Russia's 3-on-2 break, Kovalev evaded forward Tony Amonte at the left face-off circle to beat down on Esche.

He deked Esche to the ice and sniped the puck just under the crossbar to break the Americans' will and cement what turned into an easy victory.

Survive and advance

Sharapova, Henin-Hardenne, V. Williams escape close calls

BY BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Maria Sharapova zinged shots so sharply against Jelena Jankovic, many fans at Louis Armstrong Stadium left their seats early Thursday in hopes of finding a more competitive match.

They missed seeing things get interesting in the U.S. Open.

After breezing through the first seven games, Sharapova started bumbling. Soon after that, despite winning a 27-stroke point in the tiebreaker, the Wimbledon champion found herself again in a decisive third set.

But then, a bad omen for Jankovic: For some reason, her name began flickering on the scoreboard lights.

And so did her hopes of an upset, especially when she needed treatment for a recurring left hip strain.

Sharapova ramped up and won straight points in winning 6-0, 6-7 (5), 6-1.

"I felt that I could hit any shot from anywhere on the court," the Russian teen said. "That's a good feeling to have when you're in the third set."

Most of the top players struggled a bit Thursday.

Venus Williams got off to a slow start before beating Shikha Uberoi 7-5, 6-1, and defending Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne defeated Israeli qualifier Tzipi Obziler 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

Andre Agassi took control after an early stagger and led 7-5, 2-6, 2-1, 1-0 when Florian Mayer quit with a left hamstring injury.

Playing in his 19th straight Open, the 34-year-old Agassi outlasted his 20-year-old opponent.

"I just don't want to play old. That's what I'm concerned about out there," Agassi said. "I feel like if I can still play my tennis, then I'm proud of that."

The reigning French Open champions weren't so fortunate, as No. 4 Anastasia Myskina and No. 9 Gaston Gaudio both lost. So did U.S. Olympic semifinalists Mardy Fish and Taylor Dent.

On Friday, Amelia Mauresmo showed little of the rust or fatigue displayed in her previous match, easily beating No. 31 Maria Vento-Kabchi of Venezuela 6-2, 6-0 to reach the fourth round.

No. 12 Ai Sugiyama joined Mauresmo in the round of 16 by overwhelming Jelena Kostanic of Croatia 6-1, 6-3. Kostanic upset No. 18 Karolina Sprem in the first round.

In perhaps the most entertaining match Thursday, Olympic double gold medalist Nicolas Pietrangeli lost to Sargis Sargsian 6-7 (6), 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (6), 6-4. At 5 hours, 9 minutes, it was the second-longest match by time in Open history — Stefan Edberg beat Michael Chang in a 1992 semifinal that lasted 17 minutes more.

Massu spiced up his match by cracking his racket on a fence and later slamming it on a fence. Chair umpire Carlos Ramos docked Massu a point for his first outburst and penalized him a game in the final set for the tantrum.

"I played for five hours, I fight a lot, and this guy comes here, gives me two or three warnings. I accept the first two warnings. If I have to pay something, I accept it. But the third is unbelievable," Massu said. "This guy's unbelievable. He's never going to umpire me again."

Williams' victory made history. For the first time in the U.S. Open, four black women advanced to the third round. Williams joined her sister, Serena, along with Chanda Rubin and 19-year-old wild-card Angela Haynes.

All four players will not reach the fourth round. Venus Williams and Rubin face each other in their next match.

On Friday, Haynes plays Francesca Schiavone while Serena Williams takes Tatiana Golovin.

Just three of the 17 U.S. male players are left — Agassi, Andy Roddick and Vince Spadea — and the second round is not complete. Wild card Andre Delic lost to No. 3 Carlos Moya 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 in Thursday's final match. The second-seeded Roddick plays Rafael Nadal on Friday night.

Myskina lost to 17-year-old qualifier Anna Chakvetadze 7-6 (3), 6-3, and Gaudio fell to 2002 Australian Open winner Thomas Johansson 6-3, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

"I didn't want to fight. I didn't want to run," Myskina said. "I didn't want to do anything."

See scores on Page 32.



Russian defenseman Sergei Gonchar, top, lands on defenseman forward Brian Rolston during Russia's 3-1 victory on Thursday.

Wilson was befuddled by how his team has started so poorly in its first two games after solid exhibition games that included a 2-0 victory last week over Russians. He promised a new lineup for Friday night's game against Slovakia, which bodes well for forwards Jamie Langenbrunner, Bryan Smolinski and Jeff Halpern, as well as defenseman Paul Martin and Ken Klee.

"We've got five fresh pairs of legs to get in there and shake up the chemistry of our team," Wilson said. "I was shocked at how we started tonight because we seemed to have some fire in the locker room. The first couple of shifts were fine, and then we started turning the puck over, starting to complicate matters."

"They get confidence. You lose confidence. It was kind of strange to see our team, which played so well last week, not have the belief that they can handle a team with that much skill."

Garcia leads Euro Masters

The Associated Press

CRANS-SUR-SIERRE, Switzerland — Sergio Garcia birdied the last four holes and shot 6-under 65 Friday, giving him a one-shot lead over fellow Spaniard and Ryder Cup teammate Miguel Angel Jimenez after two rounds of the European Masters.

Garcia was at 11-under 131, with Jimenez (67) at 132. Luke Donald, the third member of the European Ryder Cup team playing in the event, shot 67. He was three strokes back with South African's Charl Schwartzel (66).

Two-time champion Eduardo Romero was in a group four strokes behind, with defending champion Ernie Els five off the pace after a 67.

Kim leads PGA event in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Christina Kim made 11 birdies and tied the tournament record of 10-under 62 Thursday for a two-shot lead after the opening round of the LPGA State Farm Classic.

Rookie Mikaela Paerlmiid of Sweden shot a career-best 8-under 64 and was alone in second.

Boston takes control of wild-card race

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The surging Boston Red Sox have seized control of the AL wild-card race — with an eye on winning their division.

Derek Lowe (13-10) pitched effectively into the eighth inning and Boston completed a three-game sweep of the Anaheim Angels with a 4-3 victory Thursday night — the Red Sox's season-high ninth straight win.

The Red Sox moved 4½ games ahead of the Angels in the wild-card chase and remained 3½ behind the AL East-leading New York Yankees.

"This is a special run that we are going on," Lowe said. "Especially this time of year, we are getting clutch hits, the defense was phenomenal. We're having fun."

So are the Minnesota Twins, who beat the Texas Rangers 2-0 and took a nine-game lead in the AL Central.

Brad Radke (10-7) had a season-high nine strikeouts in eight innings to give Minnesota a three-game sweep. Joe Nathan threw a perfect ninth for his 37th save, completing the five-hitter as the Twins took their largest division lead of the season.

Not bad for a team that was on the brink of contraction three years ago, but is now poised for a third straight division title.

"I hate to be cocky, but if we lose this lead right here I don't think we should have a lineup," outfielder Tori Hunter said.

At Boston, Bill Mueller homered off Bartolo Colon (13-11) and the Red Sox completed a three-game sweep with their 15th win in 16 games.

Texas, third in the wild-card standings, comes to Boston for a three-game series beginning Friday night. Boston is looking for its



Boston center fielder Johnny Damon gets a face full of dirt as he slides back in time under a tag by Anaheim Angels first baseman Darin Erstad during the second inning in Boston on Thursday. The Red Sox won 4-3.

first 10-game winning streak in over 11 years, last done in July 1993.

"It says that we're playing pretty well right now," said outfielder Johnny Damon, who went 3-for-4 with an RBI.

"We have another tough team coming in from Texas. We just have to keep playing tough."

Boston has won 10 straight at Fenway Park and is 7-0 on its 10-game homestand. The Red Sox have swept their past three series at home. The last time that happened was April 19-May 4, 1994.

Lowe allowed runs in each of the first three innings but recovered to pitch 7½ innings, giving up three runs and seven hits. Keith Foulke got four outs for his 26th save.

Colon allowed four runs and 10 hits in 4½ innings for the Angels, who fell four games behind AL West-leading Oakland.

"Hey, they played great baseball for three days," Anaheim manager Mike Scioscia said.

"We couldn't match it."

In other AL games Thursday:

Twins 2, Rangers 0: At Minneapolis, Radke had the Minnesota

balance all night. He allowed five hits and walked one in Minnesota's seventh shutout.

"This is when teams make themselves or break themselves," manager Ron Gardenhire said. "We have to come out with some intensity now and finish this thing off."

Kenny Rogers (15-7) allowed just one run in six-plus innings, but Texas tied a season high with its fourth straight loss and fell 5½ games behind first-place Oakland in the AL West.

"When you lose three in a row and the teams you're chasing win all three, it hurts and makes the

hill harder to climb," Rogers said. "But, by no means is it over."

Yankees 9, Indians 1: Gary Sheffield had three RBIs to reach 100 for the seventh time, Alex Rodriguez hit a three-run homer, and Jon Lieber (10-8) pitched seven shutout innings at Yankee Stadium.

Steve Karsay, sidelined since the end of the 2002 season with back and shoulder injuries that needed operations, allowed a home run in the ninth on his first pitch to Victor Martinez, who reached 100 RBIs for the first time. Karsay then struck out Travis Hafner and Casey Blake, and retired Ben Broussard on a pop.

Athletics 4, White Sox 2: Mark Redman (10-10) pitched seven strong innings, and Billy McMillen homered off Jose Contreras (12-7) for visiting Oakland.

Redman became the fourth A's pitcher to reach double digits in wins, allowing four hits and two runs, and AL West-leading Oakland won for the 14th time in 16 games.

Blue Jays 8, Mariners 6: Ichiro Suzuki got three more hits, but Orlando Hudson and Vernon Wells homered to lead homestanding Toronto to victory.

Suzuki, chasing George Sisler's major league record for hits in a season, went 3-for-5 and has 217 hits. He has 29 games left to break Sisler's mark of 257 hits, set in 1920 with the St. Louis Browns.

Orioles 13, Devil Rays 2: At St. Petersburg, Fla., Miguel Tejada drove in three runs, and Erik Bedard (6-9) pitched seven impressive innings for Baltimore.

Tejada increased his AL-leading total to 121 RBIs for the Orioles, who have won four straight following a 12-game losing streak. They finished their first three-game sweep of the Devil Rays, who lost their sixth in a row.

Powerhouse Cardinals complete sweep of Padres

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Cardinals have powered their way to the best record in baseball, and their manager has a stern warning for the rest of the majors.

"Our best baseball is ahead of us," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "I really believe that."

Albert Pujols and Jim Edmonds homered in the first, Jeff Suppan (14-6) won his fifth straight start, and the Cardinals completed a three-game sweep of the San Diego Padres with a 7-2 victory Thursday night.

"They outslugged us by far," Padres manager Bruce Bochy said. "But they're outslugging everybody. Look at their lineup and there's nobody in our league that matches up with them."

Pujols and Edmonds each homered three times in the series for



the Cardinals (89-44). Pujols was 4-for-4 with two RBIs, 8-for-12 with six RBIs in the series and has homered in four straight games.

"He is incredible," La Russa said.

Pujols' 43rd homer matched his career best set last season, and Edmonds gave the Cardinals three 100-RBI men for the second time in franchise history. Scott Rolen leads the NL with 116 RBIs, Pujols has 106 and Edmonds 100 after Pujols, Rolen and Edgar Renteria reached triple-digits last year.

Larry Walker added a homer in the seventh inning for the Cardinals, who are 33-6 against the Padres the past six seasons — 19-2 at home — and have swept them at least once each year.

Suppan topped his previous career best for victories set last year and tied Matt Morris and Chris Carpenter for the staff lead this season. In six-plus innings, he allowed two runs and seven hits. Suppan also got his third hit in 48 at-bats this season.

Jake Peavy (11-4) lasted six innings, but lost for the first time since July 7 to Houston.

It was a major blow to the Padres, who are two games behind the Cubs in the NL wild-card race heading into a six-game homestand.

"We knew coming in here we had to play our best ball, and we didn't do it," Bochy said. "We need to regroup and head home."

In other NL games Thursday:

Dodgers 8, Diamondbacks 4: At Phoenix, Adrian Beltré hit his 43rd homer and Milton Bradley, who'll leave the team briefly following the death of his grandfa-

ther, doubled in the go-ahead run off Shane Lince (1-1) in the eighth inning.

Yency Brazoban (1-0) gave up a run in two innings — on Scott Hairston's eighth-inning homer — and got his first major league victory. Eric Gagne got two outs for his 37th save.

Rockies 6, Giants 5: Vinny Castilla hit a two-run homer, Matt Holliday drove in two runs, and visiting Colorado beat Jason Schmidt.

Joe Kennedy (7-6) allowed five runs and nine hits in 7½ innings as the Rockies won their second straight following a season-high eight-game losing streak.

Schmidt (15-6) allowed six runs for the second consecutive game in 4½ innings as the Giants fell 1½ games behind Chicago in the wild-card race.

Marlins 9, Mets 6: Carl Pa-

vano (16-5) moved into a tie for the NL lead in wins, helping visiting Florida gain ground in the field, though, because Friday night's series against the Cubs was postponed because of Hurricane Frances.

St. Louis' first home game since the 2002 season was postponed because of Hurricane Frances.

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SPORTS



Drivers head to California Speedway with two races remaining to get into Chase for the Cup, Page 37

Reyes for Heisman?

With a chance at third straight 1,000-yard season, Syracuse running back's candidacy not a stretch

BY JOHN KEKIS
The Associated Press

Walter Reyes shrugged at the question: Would he give up his No. 39 and wear Syracuse's famed No. 44 if coach Paul Pasqualoni offers? "It's going to be a hard decision," said Reyes, who enters his senior year at Syracuse with the chance to become the first running back in school history to have three consecutive 1,000-yard seasons. "When I first came here I always said I wanted to make a number for myself, even though 39 also was worn by the great Larry Csonka. But when you talk about No. 44, it's the most prestigious number in Syracuse history, so that's a lot of pressure."

Indeed, Jim Brown, Floyd Little, and Ernie Davis, the only Syracuse player to win the Heisman Trophy (1961), each wore it with great distinction. Nobody has donned it since Rob Knorr in 1998.

Reyes seems equal to the challenge if it's presented.

Reyes, who runs low and uses his impressive power, acceleration, cutting ability and breakaway speed to befuddle defenders, is coming off one of the most productive seasons in Syracuse history.

In 2003, he ran for 1,347 yards (the second-best total in school history behind Joe Morris's 1,372 yards in 1979) and a school-record 20 touchdowns, averaging 5.3 yards per carry. And this year he's being promoted by the university for the Heisman Trophy as the Orange prepare to open the season at No. 24 Purdue on Sunday.

"It's a great preseason honor, but we still have 11 games to play, so you can't get too caught up in the preseason stuff," said the 5-foot-10, 213-pound Reyes, who struck a Heisman pose for the Carrier Dome fans after rushing for 241 yards and four TDs last season against Central Florida. "When I first heard about it in July, that's when I thought about it. Now, I don't even think about it when I'm practicing."

He does when he uses his cell phone.

"When I flip it open, I have the Heisman Trophy as my screen."

"So maybe I lied," Reyes said, laughing.

Reyes, who ran for five touchdowns in a sea-

son-ending victory over Notre Dame last December, also was the Orange's second-leading receiver with 38 catches for 375 yards and one touchdown. His 1,732 all-purpose yards were the third-highest total in school history.

Reyes already holds the Syracuse career rushing touchdown mark with 38. He also ranks seventh all-time with 2,621 career rushing yards but needs just 314 yards to move past Csonka into second place. Morris, the only other Syracuse back to have three 1,000-yard seasons, sits atop the list with 4,299 yards.

SEE REYES ON PAGE 34

■ No. 20 Utah justifies its preseason ranking, Page 34



Ninth straight win puts Red Sox 4½ ahead of Angels in AL wild-card race; Cardinals continue NL power trip

Page 38



Patriots lose third straight in preseason but rest starters for Thursday's opener

Page 35



Venus Williams, Sharapova struggle but move on in U.S. Open

Page 36

Walter Reyes has a chance to become the first running back to have three straight 1,000-yard seasons at Syracuse, a school which boasts back field alumni Larry Csonka, Jim Brown, and 1961 Heisman Trophy winner Ernie Davis.

AP

Civil case still risky for Bryant, alleged victim

Page 33



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